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CPA gets power to grant concessions

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com

ov. Ralph DLG Torres believes that signing a bill into law to empower the Commonwealth Ports Authority to grant concessions is the first step for airport is about to expire. economic activity to spill over to Tinian and Rota.

RELATED NEWS

≻'New law makes airport expansion possible'

PAGE 3

SS1 became Public Law 19-76 yesterday. It was introduced by Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan). This comes at a time

House Bill 19-189,

as the DFS concession at the Saipan

See CPA on Page 4

RIBBON CUTTING

First lady Diann Torres, fourth left, leads the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the Saipan Duck Tours yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third left, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, right, House Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), second left, and Reps. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan), left, and Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan) are the other dignitaries that attended the ceremony.

See story on Page 6

USCIS blamed for Dynasty closure

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The owner of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino accused Services of stigmatizing the compa- through counsel George Anthony

>> USCIS denies allegation

ny, leading to the eventual closure of the casino-resort.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Over-

Long, asserted that the stigma prejudiced HKE by severely interfering with the company's ability to operate its hotel and casino.

Long raised the issue in HKE's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration seas) Investments Ltd. (HKE), opposition to Homeland Security

See USCIS on Page 4

Fitch Ratings downgrades IPI

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Fitch Ratings has downgraded Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.'s credit rating after the international credit rating agency expressed concerns that the Hong Kong-based company has yet to secure long-term funds for the construction of its integrated resort on Saipan.

In separate reports by Asian

Gaming Brief and Global Gaming Expo Asia yesterday, they said that Fitch downgraded IPI's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating to CCC (credit risk or speculative) from BBB (investment grade) four months ago. It has also lowered its proposed U.S. dollar senior secured note issue to an expected B-EXP rating from BB-EXP (moderate risk).

Fitch Ratings is one of three See FITCH on Page 4

Ayuyu buys McDonald's Guam

By ERWIN ENCINARES

A Saipan-based businessman has purchased all six branches of the McDonald's franchise in Guam in mid-2016.

Jose "Joe" Ayuyu Sr. now owns all six branches of McDonald's in the most populous island of Micronesia, Guam, and the largest island of the CNMI.

The Ayuyu family owns the Mc-

Donald's franchise on Saipan and maintains two branches here: the main branch on Middle Road and at the Mobil gas station in Garapan.

Joe Ayuyu Jr., general manager of McDonald's Middle Road, told Saipan Tribune that his parents have been querying with the McDonald's Corp. for several years now if they could set up a store in Guam."

"It just so happens that it was the right time, and finally, the corpora-

See AYUYU on Page 4



McDonald's Middle Road branch gets ready for the lunchtime rush.

INSIDE



NATION

President-elect Donald Trump concedes Russia's role in election hacking.

PAGE 17



ASTA

The Philippines won't raise its recent arbitration victory against China.

PAGE 19



LIFE & STYLE

Ben Affleck again found himself a tabloid regular. What's up with that?

PAGE 24



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2 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local







'New law makes airport expansion possible'

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's plan to expand the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport inched closer to reality yesterday after being given the authority to grant concessions for the various ports of entry in the CNMI.

CPA board member and Airport Facilities Committee chair Barrie Toves plans to leverage Public Law 19-76 in the CPA's plan to expand the airport.

He said any such plan will depend on passenger traffic and international flight to Saipan, which is also dependent on the concession

"What we are trying to do now is we are developing the terminal plan to present to the bidders," said Toves.

He said a list of renovation projects would be presented to the bidders, while the bidders are free to choose how they could provide assistance. The

CPA board would then review the proposal before deciding which proposal would best benefits the Saipan airport.

"We need to accommodate the anticipated growth in the economy and tourism industry. These are the kind of terminal expansion projects that CPA is planning to engage with," said Toves.

The current concession at the Saipan airport is held by DFS T Galleria, whose contract with CPA has already expired since November 2015.

CPA is now authorized to enter concession agreements based on the concessionaire's intended purposes and its effects on the ports.

"This bill just signed into law by the governor gives us the flexibility to determine what type of concession we are going to implement on each of the islands separately," said Toves.

"With this law, it is going to open the door for [CPA] to decide which kind of concession program we can implement for each of the airports."

Now that CPA has control over the master concessions, it makes it easier for businesses to come in and allow CPA to strike up deals with business owners.

PL 4-60 allows CPA to enter into one of three pre-designed concession agreements: dutyfree retail concession, master concession, and non-duty-free

The duty-free retail conces-

concession.

sion agreement grants the exclusive right to operate facilities at a port of entry to deliver duty-free merchandise.

The master concession grants the exclusive right to operate facilities—at each and every port—for sale of duty-

free merchandise or any other items. The life of a master concession is 20 years.

A non-duty free concession can be used with a duty-free retail concession or separately, at a single port of entry, to sell exclusively all or specified non-duty-free merchandise. (Erwin Encinares)

ON SELECTED ITEMS ENDS FEBRUARY 12. iShop Paseo iShop Kanoa iShop Fiesta Kanoa Resort Hotel 1 (670) 235-3718 Paseo de Marianas 1 (670) 233-2616 Fieta Resort & Spa 1 (670) 237-0729 SOME CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY.

Failure to appear traffic case results in a warrant for arrest

An ex-convict who reportedly engaged police officers in a 40-minute car chase was charged with several traffic citations but failed to appear at his arraignment yesterday.

That prompted Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja to issue a bench warrant in the amount of \$5,000 against the suspect, Vincent San Nicolas Norita.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Norita with eluding a police officer, reckless driving, speeding, running a red light, failure to follow traffic signs, and unsafe passing.

Eluding and reckless driving have the maximum penalty each of six months imprisonment. The remaining charges are all payable fines, Saipan Tribune learned.

It was Norita who was allegedly involved in a car chase that ended when his car hit an embankment and overturned in Koblerville on the evening of Dec. 9, 2016.

The OAG dismissed without prejudice last month the car-chase charges against Norita. Dismissal without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. stated at that time that the case is still being investigated.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to provide the OAG with a report about the car chase.

The car chase went viral after a bystander took a video of a police officer, who appeared to be repeatedly hitting the suspect, Norita, with a baton or stick as he lay on the ground.

Police said that Norita's car, a white 2011 Toyota Yaris fourdoor sedan with license plate ADZ-841 was speeding and nearly hit several pedestrians during a pursuit that happened in the evening last Dec. 9.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services disclosed that upon medics' assessment at the scene, the driver, Norita, stated he had pain on the back of his right shoulder blade. (Ferdie dela Torre)







AYUYU

From Page 1

tion said yes. [Joe Ayuyu] acted quickly and when they offered it to him, [he] accepted," said Ayuyu Jr.

Guam McDonald's Tamuning branch has been doing business in Guam for 45 years.

Ayuyu Jr. said it was being run by the corporation, which is headquartered in Chicago, but had a regional office in Hawaii.

"On Saipan, we are a franchise restaurant, and so that is how he was able to buy it. He bought it straight from the corporation," said Ayuyu Jr.

The official takeover date for the Guam branches was on May 1, 2016. He declined to specify the purchase terms.

Future plans

"Now that the business has expanded a lot, we are now getting more of our family involved," said Ayuyu Jr.

Ayuyu Jr. said his father decided to keep the staff during the transition.

"We expanded our office by hiring some new administrative people. We do have staff in Guam. They have an office there, and my dad made it a point to keep everybody on board. During the transition, everybody was guaranteed their jobs so long as they continue to do what they were doing and meet the company standards. We ended up keeping everybody," he said.

Ayuyu Jr. owes it to the experienced staff in Guam for helping them during the transition.

"Of the 45 years that Mc-Donald's Guam has been operating, some of them have been with the company for 20 to 30 years. We are lucky to have them," he said.

Having the same owner means both Saipan and Guam McDonald's offices are collaborating and sharing ideas. However, the offices would remain separate due to the sheer size of the Guam market.

"It is a big business and it takes somebody really experienced to manage there. Here on Saipan, I am in charge with the help of my mom, Marcia Ayuyu, and my sister, Mable Ayuyu," he said.

Ayuyu Jr.'s goal at the moment is to become a certified owner of the franchise.

"I am currently undergoing training, which is a prerequisite to become a certified owner/operator. Some years back, my mom became a certified owner/operator, and that eventually is my goal," said Ayuyu Jr.

Expansion

The factors that dictate a Mc-Donald's decision to open up a new branch is the population and the economy.

"With all the military buildup and the strong tourist presence, we are looking to open a new location [in Guam] by the end of 2017," said Ayuyu Jr.

The Ayuyus are still juggling with the idea of expanding on Saipan, considering its significantly lower population compared to Guam.

"Our challenge now is that the [McDonald's Garapan] store is very limited in space, which is why we don't serve all of McDonald's products there. In the Middle Road branch, we can accommodate all the equipment we need to prepare certain food orders. We would love to [serve our consumers], but realistically, there is nothing we can do," said Ayuyu Jr.

The possibility of a Mc-Donald's branch in Kagman has been discussed but nothing solid remains, according to him

"We don't have plans for expansion on Saipan yet, but we are keeping it in mind. People have been talking about Kagman and the southern area, so we are remaining open to possibilities," he said.

Other brands

Although the family has yet to discuss it, Ayuyu Jr. is open to the idea of purchasing another franchise brand—when the time is right. "We'll see," he said.

"What I can tell you is Saipan and Guam's economy is growing, so there is a possibility to open more stores. I think we would look into that first before branching out into other businesses. I haven't talked to the boss about that,

but what I can say about my dad is he is an entrepreneur—he is always looking for new things. All I can really say is we have to wait and see," said Ayuyu Jr.

Ayuyu Jr. said the community is just really proud of Ayuyu Sr.'s accomplishments.

"We are just really proud of him. I know that his friends, family, and the people of Saipan are proud of what he's done and what kind of example he sets for us," he said.

AQUADUCK

From Page 6

when she came back I was really relieved as she had a big smile in her face and she gave me big a thumbs up. When I saw that I was really, really relieved because now I know that the Duck can really float," he said as the crowd laughed.

Public market board chair Deleon Guerrero said the grand opening of Duck Tours is a very proud moment not only for Yokeno's company but the public market as well.

The Duck Tours vehicle is based on World War II-era DUKW. A regular ride costs \$55 for tourists, \$38 for local adults, and \$28 for children ages 3-12. The ticket also serves as a \$3 coupon for produce or snacks at the Garapan Public Market.

For more information and tickets, visit www.saipanducks.com or call 235-5050.

USCIS

From Page 1

Secretary Jeh Johnson's and USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez's motion to dismiss HKE's lawsuit.

Heather Sokolower, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney, denied that USCIS designated HKE "as an illegitimate business" or ever refer to HKE as an "illegitimate business."

Sokolower said HKE mischaracterizes the agency actions.

HKE is suing USCIS, Johnson, and Rodriguez over the denial of its petitions for CW-1 extension and transfer for its foreign workers.

According to HKE's lawsuit, the final USCIS Administrative Appeals Office's adverse agency decision affirming that the company is not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes affected more than three quarters of Dynasty's employees.

HKE claimed it was harmed by the decision as it affected its ability to maintain and continue its business operations. Tinian Dynasty used to employ about 500 foreign contract workers.

The defendants moved to dismiss the lawsuit for lack of standing and failure to state a claim.

In HKE's opposition to the motion dismiss, Long asserted, among other things, that HKE has suffered and is suffering injury-in-fact which can be redressed by the district court's favorable decision.

Long said HKE has suffered a legal wrong and has been adversely affected and aggrieved by USCIS designating its hotel/casino complex an "illegitimate business."

Long said USCIS' actions injured HKE's reputation and deprived it of its workforce. Starting in December 2014, USCIS denied HKE's petitions for CW-1 permits for its foreign workers because of a then-pending federal criminal case filed in 2013 which al-

leged that HKE had violated the Bank Secrecy Act.

Long said each denial determined that HKE's hotel and casino was an illegitimate business because of the allegations it had violated the BSA.

Long said at the time of the denials in December 2014 and early 2015, the criminal case was still pending and there had not been any judicial determination that HKE had violated the BSA.

In any event, the lawyer noted that each denial decision stated that USCIS would reconsider its determination if HKE prevailed or was not convicted in the criminal case.

HKE appealed the denials.

Long said that during the pendency of the appeals, HKE and the U.S. government resolved the criminal case by entering into a non-prosecution agreement resulting in dismissal of the criminal case in July 2015.

Long said that, in February 2016, the Administrative Appeals Office denied HKE's administrative appeals on grounds that HKE did not operate a legitimate business.

In defendants' reply, So-kolower said HKE is mischaracterizing the agency actions.

Sokolower asked the court to reject HKE's contention that it has standing to bring the lawsuit for the reason that USCIS did not make the "des-

ignation" that HKE alleges caused it harm.

Sokolower said the other reason is that HKE raises no facts—much less any evidence—showing that USCIS' decisions denying its CW-1 petitions have caused any ongoing concrete or particularized injury that would be redressable by a favorable decision in this case.

Sokolower said HKE fails to identify any decision "designating HKE's hotel/casino complex as an illegitimate business."

The lawyer said the exemplar decision that HKE attached to its complaint confirms USCIS made no such designation.

FITCH

From Page 1

credit rating agencies that include Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Fitch is the smallest of the three nationally recognized statistical organizations chosen by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and acts as a tiebreaker when Moody's and

S&P have similar ratings.

Although IPI is on track to finish the casino resort on time, Fitch said long-term capital expenditure funds for Imperial Pacific Resort has still not been secured.

"Failure to secure funding for the completion of both construction phases may further pressure IPI's liquidity," said Fitch Ratings in a statement released last Wednesday. Fitch also cited the lack of licensed junket operators on Saipan. The Commonwealth Casino Commission has so far granted one provisional license to Big Bang Entertainment, whose clients are from Japan and South Korea.

"The downgrade also reflects the company's need to fund advances to customers and bear customers' credit risk due to the lack of licensed junket operators on Saipan," added Fitch in the statement.

IPI has been relying on third-party introductions and internal marketing in dealing with its VIP players. They also grant direct credit to VIP customers that are only backed by guarantors.

"Fitch believes IPI's receivable days have expanded well beyond 100 days in view of strong VIP rolling chips vol-

ume in the past six months. Operating cash generation is likely to be low, despite strong revenue growth," said Fitch.

Fitch also believes that its new assessment on IPI faces substantial credit risk and that default is a real possibility, based on the ratings on its website.

The downgrade comes out almost a week after IPI reported a \$32.37 billion unaudited VIP

table games rolling chip turnover in 2016, surpassing Venetian Macau's \$31.02 billion.

"The actual gain or loss of the temporary casino will be determined after the review by the company's auditors upon finalization of the consolidated financial statements of the group," IPI said in a voluntary announcement filed at the Hong Kong Stocks Exchange last Monday.

CPA

From Page

CPA executive director Chris Tenorio thanked the governor and the Legislature, particularly Guerrero, for having the bill passed and enacted.

"Your signature, governor, would allow us to move forward in making decisions on mass concessions," he said.

Torres said that giving CPA the authority to deal with concessions would mean more businesses as they could now rent out space at the CNMI's ports of entry. The law could also help CPA get the funds that would allow it to either improve or renovate the airports.

"We already met with the CPA board and the development of the airports is something that we're going to follow up with them. I just signed the concession law and it is definitely a good start," said Torres.

Torres asked the Legislature to come up with bills similar to PL 19-76 or amend certain sections of previous laws and

other policies to attract investors to Tinian and Rota. "For now, it is difficult to get investments on the islands of Rota and Tinian. That's why I urge the [Legislature] to amend policies and try to also think of ways to help give opportunity for these investors to reach Rota and Tinian. There's opportunity for us to move forward, for investments to grow while also protecting our interests."

Torres said he has met with Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian) and they have discussed other issues that prevent potential investors from going to the other islands. "The administration is cognizant in supporting projects that they have."

As of now, Alter City Group and Bridge Investment Group are the two biggest investors that have pumped additional revenue to Tinian. The island is also expecting more economic activity in the coming years when the United States Air Force begins its divert airfield program.

Torres, however, emphasized that concerns like environmental issues should

be put in perspective when allowing new investors on Tinian and Rota. "We want to emphasize in the permits that we need to be sensitive in investing on Tinian and Rota investments. The opportunity is very difficult."

"Therefore our permitting agencies should move forward by also protecting our environment as well. If we need to amend certain laws, regulations or rules, I would support it as long as it makes sure the projects would move forward. We want to see Tinian and Rota also prosper.

That is something that we should seriously look at as long as it won't jeopardize the environment."

Guerrero said his bill had to go through some changes after the Senate passed it with amendments. "The House [of Representatives] acted on it immediately after the Senate was done with the amendment. [PL 19-76] gives the CPA the authority to negotiate with concessions independently, which is the best for them to make the necessary changes at the airport."

Man who mauled wife gets 90-day prison term

A man who choked his pregnant wife and bit her ear and nose during an argument was slapped with a 90-day prison term.

Nathan Roppul, 27, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to assault and battery and was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 90 days. He was given credit for 51 days of time served. This means he will be released from the Department of Correction on Feb. 19, 2017, at 8am.

After serving his sentence, Roppul will be placed on supervised probation for a year. He will be required to perform 80 hours of community service and complete anger management counseling and alcohol abuse counseling.

Roppul is not allowed to possess or consume any alcoholic beverages during his probation. He was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court fees, and \$100 probationary service fee.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge of disturbing the peace was dropped.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds represented the government in the case. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit served as counsel for Roppul.

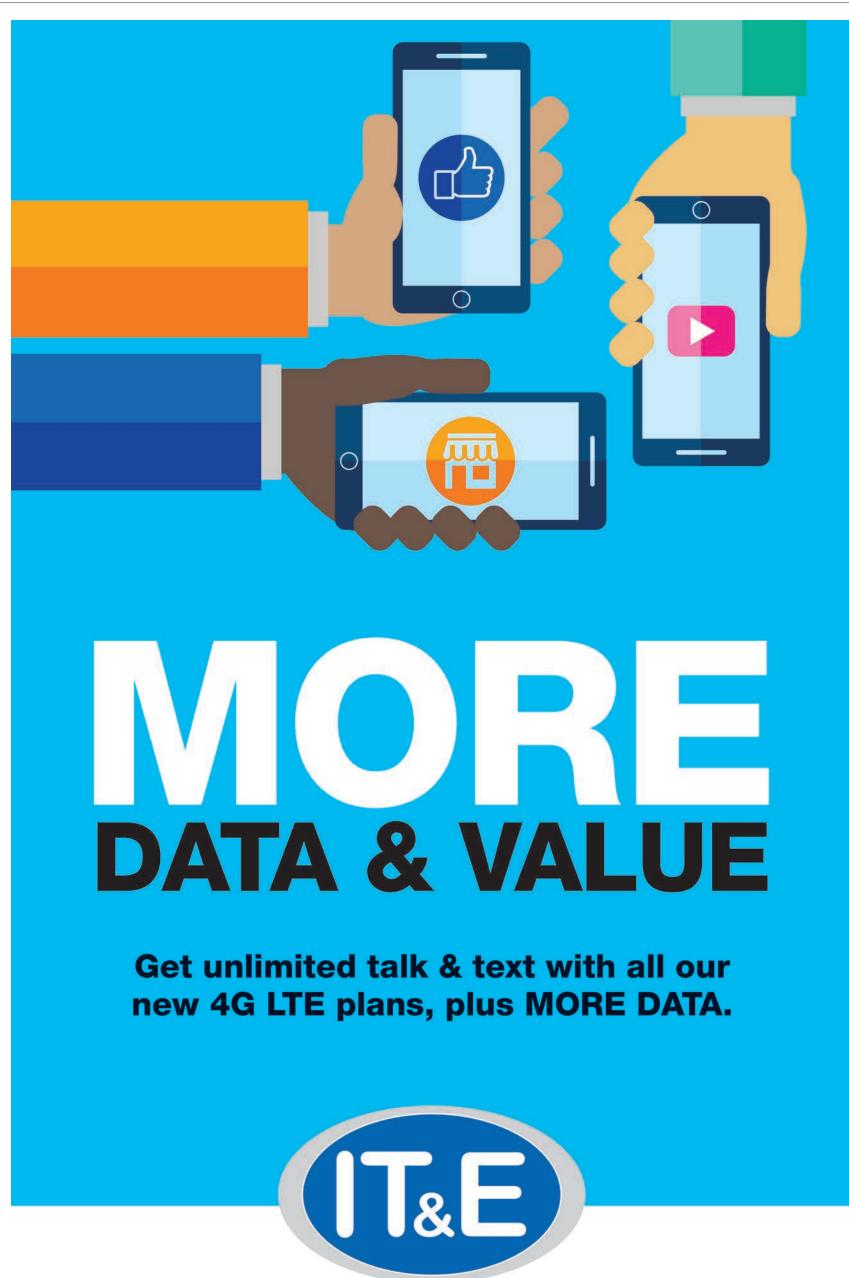
Roppul was accused choking his wife, hitting her in the face, and biting her nose and ear on Nov. 21, 2016.

Police said that when two responding police officers arrived at the couple's residence in Susupe, they saw the victim on the floor with blood on her nose.

She told the officers that Roppul choked her and fled the scene. She told the officers that she had difficulty breathing.

At the time, she was three months pregnant. Their argument began after she found him drinking alcoholic beverages again. Roppul had promised stop drinking for the sake of their child. (Ferdie de la Torre)





Life In Motion

'AquaDuck will be a boon to public market'

By MARK RABAGO

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AquaDuck LLC president Eddie Yokeno has this tip for everyone: Start investing in the Garapan Public Market, as its sales are about to go through the roof, thanks to his Saipan Duck Tours operations.

"I think we're hitting the right chords in how we're conducting our tour program. I'm envisioning that during the next year or two, the Garapan Public Market will be making between \$1 million and \$2 million easy a year," said Yokeno during the grand opening of Duck Tours yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The public market and Yokeno's Duck Tours are partnering in the first-ever amphibious tour of Saipan: the former offers tourists an hourlong land and water tour of the island's historical sites. It then concludes with tourists partaking of snacks and drinks at the public market.

"Essentially this duck drive is a half-hour spent on a land tour and another half hour splashing in the Saipan Lagoon. When they get back, tourists get to enjoy a cold beverage made from locally

grown fruits and eat local snacks," said Yokeno.

This synergy between Duck Tours and the Garapan Public Market is prompting Yokeno to see sunny days ahead for the once-struggling market. Its own board chair, Crispin I. Deleon Guerrero, said that at one point the market only had \$300 in its bank account.

"I advise you to buy stocks of the Garapan Public Market today. It's a great opportunity right now," Yokeno said.

He expects Duck Tours to also do pretty well in the next couple of years.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres,

who spoke at the grand opening, welcomed Yokeno's Duck Tours to the islands' rebounding tourism industry.

This is definitely part of tourism. Allowing this new type of tourism brings excitement not only to tourists but also to our local [residents]. My family had just got an opportunity to ride," he said.

He also thanked the Marianas Visitors Authority and other government agencies for supporting Duck Tours.

"Tourism is our bread and butter and having different types of tourism activities here gives us an opportunity to showcase the beauty of our islands. ...Let's embrace this activity and come out with family and friends [to ride the Duck Tours]."

Yokeno said he owes a great deal of debt to Torres' administration and even thanked first lady Diane Torres for trying out the tour.

"She went with one of the first trial tours. They went on the land and in the water and

See AQUADUCK on Page 4

Committee membership forming

Chairpersons of the standing committees in the House of Representatives and Senate are in the process of forming their respective teams as the 20th Legislature settles in.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) had given positions to the 14 other GOP members in the House, with Rep. Janet U. Maratita getting the vice speaker post and Rep. Glenn L. Maratita is floor leader

The Senate released its list of committee chairmanships a day after Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), and floor leader Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) assumed their posts.

House committee chairs have been talking with their colleagues, including the fivemember minority.

Reps. Donald C. Barcinas (Transportation), Ivan A. Blanco (Judiciary and Governmental Operations), and Angel A. Demapan (Ways and Means) are among those who are forming the composition of their committees.

Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said, in an earlier interview that he would join a committee that he is comfortable with. "I would do my part to help out. If they want me to be in a particular committee and if I'm comfortable with it then I'll be part of it."

"But if I see that it is not my expertise, I will see if I could

join it or see if I would be offered in another committee," he added.

Reps. Francisco C. Aguon (Social and Human Services, Edwin P. Aldan (Education), Francisco S. Dela Cruz (Public Utilities and Communication), Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Gaming), Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (Commerce and Tourism), Alice S. Igitol (Natural Resources), Jose I. Itibus (Health) and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (Federal and Foreign Affairs) are the other committee chairs.

In the Senate, Borja will also head the committees on Resources, Economic Development, and Programs along with the Federal Relations and Independent Agencies while Senate legislative secretary Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) will remain as committee chair of Education and Youth Affairs while adding Rules and Procedures to his care.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) will stay with Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications while also leading the Health and Welfare committees. Mesngon is the new Judiciary, Government, and Law chair.

Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will continue to head the committees on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, and Fiscal Affairs, respectively. (Jon Perez)



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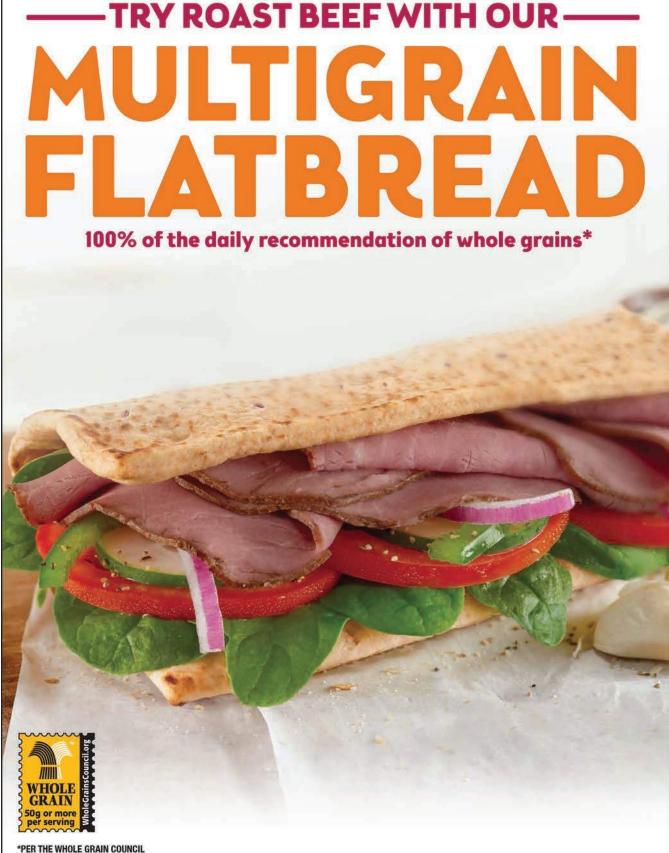


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Registration open for Marianas Sunset Fun Run

Registration is now open for the Marianas Visitors Authority's Marianas Sunset Fun Run

on Jan. 20, 2016, marking the end of the yearlong celebration of the office's 40th anniversary.

Registration forms are available at www.mymarianas.com under the NMI Events Calendar and on the homepage.

Registration is \$5, and proceeds of the event will benefit

the six months suspended sentence in the traffic cases shall be served in addition to the jail

Hemley was found in possession of 0.5 gross grams of

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government at the hearing. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Hemley.

According to court records, Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Hemley last April 28 for illegal possession and trafficking of "ice."

DETF agent Roque K. Camacho said they spotted Hemley in Puerto Rico shortly before noon last July 29. As they served the arrest warrant on Hemley, police noticed a Chinese national in a separate car throw away a tissue containing "ice." The man was arrested. (Ferdie de la Torre)

the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office, which helps control the stray dog population.

Four-legged friends on leashes are welcome at the event, which will begin at 6pm (registration on run day begins at 5pm) at Garapan Fishing Base, with the turnaround point at the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road.

"The Marianas Sunset Fun Run is a chance to come together and celebrate tourism and the MVA, all for a good cause," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "For coordination purposes, we encourage runners and walkers to register before Jan. 20 so we can prepare adequately. Also, we thank all our community partners that are coming out to support the MVA as we wrap up our yearlong 40th anniversary.

T-shirts provided by the MVA and TanHoldings Corp. will be distributed to registrants while supplies last. Taste of the Marianas tokens will be awarded to the first five male and first five female finishers. Also, the first 40 registrants under 18 will receive a Saipan-da backpack.

Cash and company checks are accepted, and checks should be made payable to the Marianas Visitors Authority. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/01. (MVA)

Suspected 'ice' dealer pleads guilty

A suspected dealer of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" who is on probation has pleaded guilty in Superior Court.

Jameson Palacios Hemley, 43, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to illegal possession of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal. He also admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probation in three traffic cases. He will be sentenced on March 21, 2017, at 1:30pm.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo directed the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

In the drug case, Hemley shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment between zero and three years.

Govendo will determine the credit for time served at the March 21 sentencing.

For violating the terms and conditions of his probation, term, if any, is imposed in the "ice" case.

Hemley was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

"ice" on March 18, 2016.

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Bob Marley tribute band Katchafire will perform in a one-night concert this Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa beachside.

Promoter Derron Flores said he's been trying since last year to bring the Hamilton, New Zealand-based group to perform on Saipan.

He said Katchafire has been featured in Trench Fest in Guam the past couple of years so it makes sense to fly them to the CNMI during the same weekend.

Flores said Katchafire's tunes are pretty much like island songs people of the Pacific have come to love.

"They're island people like us and their type of island reggae is like the ones people in the Marianas and the Pacific have always come to enjoy and love," he said.

According to its website, katchafire.co.nz, the all-Maori reggae band has become a global roots reggae phenomenon by delivering its authentic reggae shows around the world.

Katchafire has released four highly successful studio albums, won multiple awards, and has churned out platinum sales and highest selling singles the past couple of years.

According to the website, the group's sound is built on the foundations of classic roots reggae with an R'n'B and funk rub, mashing modern dancehall and slinky reggae pop.

Katchafire was founded by lead guitarist Grenville Bell. who is the father of lead singer Logan and drummer/singer/ songwriter Jordan. The rest of the reggae group is made up of Leon Davey (percussion), Jamey Ferguson (saxophone), Tere Ngarua (bass), Thompson Hohepa (guitar), and Haani Totorewa (keyboard).

Tickets are on sale at Boarderline and Tribe Marianas at \$25. The Katchafire concert is brought to you by Empire Entertainment, Calabis Clothing Company, and Flores' Dotmp Promotions. Gates open at 5pm and the show starts at 6pm. (Mark Rabago)





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Hyatt offers Pizza Margherita during IDIC promo



For this year's International Day of Italian Cuisine celebration, Hyatt Regency Saipan will be offering authentica Pizza Margherita with a glass of Chianti at Giovanni's.

Executive chef Gabriele Colombo said the Virtual Group of Italian Chefs, of which he is a member, made the decision for member chefs to whip up their own version of Pizza Margherita for this year's celebration. Pizza Margherita is by far the most popular kind of pizza around the world.

"The original pizza comes from Naples in the south of Italy. What the global association is trying to do is to reintroduce what the original pizza should be," he said.

Colombo said the group came up with a guideline on how to cook Pizza Margherita and his version uses the prescribed high-gluten flour san marzano and cherry tomatoes, extra virgin olive oil, fresh basil, and fresh buffalo mozzarella cheese ingredients. Like the old ways, he will use a wood-fired oven to cook the pizza.

By sticking to the original ingredients and ways of making Pizza Margherita, Colombo hopes residents will appreciate what authentic Pizza Margherita tastes like.

"Pizza has been one of the most popular dishes in Italian cuisine around the world. So what happened was a lot of people misjudged, they used different toppings and different ingredients, and it [ultimately] became different from the original pizza," he said.

Colombo will cook his Pizza Margherita like the ones he ate while growing up in Italy.

"Margherita is in our cul-

ture. When you say pizza it's always Pizza Margheritasimple and fresh. It also helps that it has the colors of Italy's flag-red, green, and white. It's very patriotic."

Diners who sample Colombo's Pizza Margherita get to wash it down with a glass of Chianti—the spirit of choice whenever you eat Italian food, especially pizza.

The Garapan landmark's authentica Pizza Margherita promotion starts on Jan. 17 and ends on Jan. 31. Colombo said the start date is significant because it's the feast day of St. Peter, who is the patron saint of good food.

The Pizza Margherita will costs \$20 and includes a glass of chianti. Dinner is available from 6pm to 9pm and Club at the Hyatt members are welcome. For reservations, call 234-1234 Ext. 26. (Mark Rabago)

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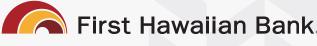
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EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Herring is new Fiesta Resort GM

Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., which operates both the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan and the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, announced yesterday the official appointment of Wendi S. Herring as general manager

of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. 2017, Herring concurrently

Herring combines an international outlook with deep and practical experience in the islands, where she has demonstrated excellent credentials. Since July 2016 until January managed both Fiesta and Kanoa Resort Saipan.

Herring brings over 25 years of industry experience spanning Saipan, Thailand, Guam, and England. She started her

career at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and gained extensive operational experience as a management trainee and was quickly promoted to assistant director of Sports, Entertainment & Activities for PIC Phuket in 1991. After opening the Thai property, Herring returned to Saipan in 1992 to assume executive positions as director of Sports, Entertainment & Activities, Rooms Division Manager, executive assistant manager, and finally general manager in 1999.

From 2009-2012, Herring transitioned to the sister properthat island.

Most recently, Herring returned to Saipan in February

2015 to assume the role of general manager of Kanoa Resort Saipan in which she delivered outstanding results in a changing market and achieved record numbers in guest satisfaction and revenue growth as well as overseeing the extensive room renovation project for the main wing.

Herring

Herring holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and is also a graduate of Cornell University's esteemed General Manager's Program. Wendi continues to represent APHI and TanHoldings through various community and industry associations including vice chair of the Marianas Tourism Education Council, board member of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands.



offering extensive shadowing opportunities at the hotels and speaking in their classrooms.

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan is part of Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., under the TanHoldings group of companies. Located in central Garapan on sandy Micro Beach, Fiesta Resort operates 416 guest rooms, four restaurants, two bars, three meeting rooms, an extensive fitness center, two pools, game room, spa, beach volleyball courts and a retail outlet. (PR)



Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our "Tropicana Restaurant" (2nd floor of Taga Tower)! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Champagne, beers.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/7 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/8 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/9	1/10 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/11 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/12	1/13 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/15 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/16	1/17 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/18 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/19	1/20 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/21 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/22 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/23	1/24 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/25 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/26	1/27 Buffet Lunch \$14 Chinese New Year Eve Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/28 Chinese New Year Brunch \$25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/29 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night	1/30	1/31 Seafood & Sushi Night				

- Our "Dolphin" restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu (\$8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner (\$35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; everyday is different; \$12 only, 15 servings per day; First in First Out! Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm "Startlight BBQ" Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. AD 539 CH: \$19 (Local: AD \$35/ CH \$17) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm
- Menu: "All you can eat & drink" beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set (\$7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies... with unique ocean view at our "Airi Coffee Lounge". Business hrs: 10:00am - 6:00pm

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

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Please join us every 6pm

Topics: Indigenous Affairs Office, Ancestral Remains, Trade School & others

Kagman Community Center January 17, 2017 January 19, 2017 Pedro P. Tenorio, Multi-purpose Center January 24, 2017 Koblerville Youth Center January 26, 2017 Tanapag Youth Center

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Jefferey T. Deleon Guerrero

Crime Stoppers is seeking the remain anonymous. public's help for a wanted per-

son. On Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed an arrest warrant for Jefferey T. Deleon Guerrero aka "Feng," on a charge of trafficking of an

illegal controlled substance. Bail is set at \$100,000. Law enforcement officers are searching for Jefferey T. Deleon Guerrero. He is still at large. If spotted, do not approach, call 911 or Crime Stoppers should you wish to

Deleon Guerrero

Deleon Guerrero, 42, is a

Chamorro male. 5'9" tall, weighs 240 lbs, with slack short hair brown eyes.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline

at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www. nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Two-day meeting with all FSM citizens

All FSM citizens and their families are kindly asked to attend two important meetings with FSM officials otoday, Jan. 13, and tomorrow, Jan. 14, at the Garapan Central Park Round House. The purpose of these meetings is to educate/discuss with FSM voters about the dual citizenship amendment to the FSM Constitution. Both meetings will start at 6pm. (PR)

After-school program at Kagman center

The Family & Youth Enhancement Program-Youth Services Section of the Division of Youth Services offers an after-school program at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Thursdays from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Aside from homework/school project sessions, the program also provides for youth prevention activities that focus on literacy, art and music, career opportunities and cultural demonstrations. (PR)

Kagman schools PTSA meeting set

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday Jan. 19, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 for more information. (PR)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 **11**



FARE CONDITIONS: Selling Period: Until January 31, 2017. Travel Period: January 1 - March 15, 2017 and July 1 - December 10, 2017. Subject to seat availability. Fare is subject to change due to currency conversion rate. Fare is not guaranteed until final purchase. All-in economy roundtrip fare is quoted per person. Fare includes taxes and fees, exclusive of Philippine travel tax of PHP1,620 and ticketing service charge. Taxes are approximate. Breakdown of taxes and fees can be viewed at philippineairlines.com. Fare is valid for a minimum stay of 2 days and a maximum stay of 21 days. Refund fee is USD150 for totally unused ticket. Fare is non-refundable for partially used ticket. Change fee is USD75 per transaction. No-show fee is USD75. Infant fare for infant without a seat under 2 years is 10% of adult fare. Child's fare is 75% of adult fare. 100% Mabuhay Miles credit. Quoted fare is rounded off to the nearest whole number. Other travel conditions apply. BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: Fare is inclusive of 7-kg hand carry baggage. Free check-in baggage allowance is 2 pieces at 50 lbs (23 kgs) per piece. There may be additional fees for your checked baggage in excess of your free baggage allowance.

12 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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EDITORIAL

The right way to combat drunken driving

tah State Rep. Norman Thurston has introduced a bill to lower the legal blood-alcohol content for drunken driving from the current .08 percent to .05 percent. "Impairment starts with the first drink," he told the *Los Angeles Times*, "and we want to establish this state as one where you simply do not drink and drive."

Under the current limit, a 160-pound man needs about four drinks in an hour to qualify as under the influence. Under the lower one, two could be enough to bring a DUI charge. A 100-pound woman could hit the limit with a single glass of wine. Small wonder that the American Beverage Institute, which represents restaurants, argues that the change would mean "criminalizing perfectly responsible behavior."

It's true that every drink raises the risk of impairment and accidents. At .05, says the National Transportation Safety Board, the risk of a crash is 38 percent higher than at zero. But that pales next to the risk at .08, which is 169 percent higher. From an enforcement point of view, each reduction in the BAC limit yields less and less in the way of greater safety.

If law enforcement resources were infinite, the change might be sensible. But the funds and personnel used to crack down on these motorists are not available for other measures that could provide more bang for the buck.

The advocates are confident the change would make a big difference. The NTSB contends that lowering the standard to .05 "changes the drink-driving behavior of drivers at all BAC levels" because of its "broad deterrent effect." Put another way, it would scare people—including the mildest of tipplers, who already stay under .05—to drink less. You could call that a deterrent effect or deliberate intimidation of law-abiding drivers. Either way, it would inhibit a lot of people who pose no real risk on the roads.

It's worth noting that Mothers Against Drunk Driving has declined to endorse the stricter rule, preferring to focus on better ways to assure compliance with the existing one. High on the group's list of priorities is requiring all first-time DUI offenders to be barred from driving unless they install interlock devices that prevent their cars from starting if an in-car Breathalyzer determines they've been drinking.

Frank Harris, head of governmental affairs for the Utah chapter of MADD, told CNN, "We believe we can save more lives" that way than with the .05 standard. Arresting and convicting drunken drivers is of limited utility if the offenders go back to driving drunk—as most will do if they get the chance, according to MADD's research. The key is to catch them and prevent them from reverting to their dangerous habits.

So far, 28 states and the District of Columbia have attacked the problem by requiring interlocks for anyone convicted of DUI—with heartening results. A study published in the American Journal for Public Health estimated that states with such mandates cut their alcohol-related traffic deaths by 15 percent compared to the other states.

This approach is a proven success in this country. And it has another virtue, compared to lowering the permissible BAC: It inconveniences the guilty rather than the innocent.

(c)2017 Chicago Tribune



A farewell speech in a bubble

e did it. In my youth, it would have been unimaginable that we would ever elect a black president. But we came through, and he was extraordinary—charming, brilliant and not least a gifted orator, which he proved again in his farewell speech Tuesday night. Some of it was uplifting, and his critics should say so, but it was self-revealing when he talked about many of us living in bubbles.

What he meant, he made clear, was that we tend to surround ourselves with those who "look like us" and "share the same political outlook and never challenge our assumptions."

He could have gone further, saying that even when faced with challenges, there are those whose imperturbable self-esteem and ideological fixations disallow true listening and encourage self-serving rationalization.

One of his examples of where to

One of his examples of where to find such people was college campuses, and boy does that ever seem the case. You watch the sobbing and screaming and wonder if some protestors have ever once peeked outside their own take on things.

I would not go that far in describing Obama, but he once more demonstrated in this speech that his own bubble is hard to pop.

He talked, for instance, about turning to our fundamental American values of rule of law, democracy and liberty as enabling us to deal with the highly disturbing issues of our day. But here is someone who has flaunted rule of law, democracy and liberty with unlimited vigor.

"We can't wait for an increasingly dysfunctional Congress to do its job," he said in 2011 after Democrats lost control of the House the previous year. "Where they won't act, I will," he continued, and he followed through on the promise, again and again issuing executive orders on matters that even he himself had in one major instance said required congressional approval. He justified all this as needed for the nation's good despite constitutional abridgments, some of which the Supreme Court struck down.

Isn't it likely that he really does care about democracy

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



but found it easy to retire into his bubble, pleased at his own self-assurance, the applause of his inner circle and the pundits who said go ahead?

He also spoke out against sharp-edged partisanship even as he took a shot at those who "rage about deficits when we propose to spend money on preschool for kids, but not when we're cutting taxes for corporations."

The point of cutting taxes for corporations, as numbers of economists agree, is to induce expansion that can lead to more federal revenue and supply the money for such things as more preschool education for kids. On the other hand, maybe he wants to make sure no one ever surpasses his record \$20 trillion gross debt.

This president also hit those he sees as dismissing facts despite his own unscientific push for a costly, unilaterally adopted climate plan that will achieve nothing by itself—EPA director Gina McCarthy has admitted as much—or his seeming to take credit for carbon dioxide reductions mostly achieved by free market fracking.

He bragged about Obamacare, which has admirably extended insurance coverage to 20 million people who previously had none, but seems blank-of-mind about a downward spiral caused by an absurd redefinition of what insurance is.

For all of those bubble questions, he is a striking figure, this president is, and despite the slow economic recovery, we have lately been doing

See FAREWELL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right

to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

C-to-F and back again

ne result of Saipan's crossroads status is that temperatures are often reported, understood, and even misunderstood in a haphazard mix of Fahrenheit and Celsius. So, quick, what's the Fahrenheit equivalent of 26 C? Or tell me the Celsius equivalent of 120 F. Yikes, that's a tiger of a math problem, right?

Well, no problem. We'll tame it. I'll show you how.

But first, let's heed the textbook side of things just so we can note the ever-widening disparity between textbook facts and real-world practicality.

The textbook formula we learn in school is that Fahrenheit equals nine-fifths Celsius plus 32 degrees. From the looks of things, this formula doesn't help many people.

For one thing, many people can't remember it, and, even if they do remember it, or even if they look it up, they can't really use it easily. Furthermore, if you want to do a quick-and-dirty mental approximation, who wants to multiply something by nine-fifths? Talk about awkward. It gives me a headache just thinking about it.

Having set the stage for this sorry situation, I'll unveil the magic rule of thumb for an approximate conversion from Celsius to Fahrenheit. Here it is: "Double it and add 30."

That's all there is to it. Sure, it's easy to remember. And, better yet, it's easy to do.

Let's pick up the examples I started off with and test-fly them. We'll start with 26 C. What's the Fahrenheit equivalent? First we double the 26 C; doubling 26 gives us 52. Then we add 30; this gives us 82. And then, well, there is no other then, since

we're already done: 26 C equals (approximately) 82 F.

If we reach for a calculator and grind out the exact answer, we'll come up with 78.8 F. So, in this case, our approximation is off by about three degrees. For casual use, like picking which clothes to pack for a trip, this is certainly close enough.

We can reverse the process and convert Fahrenheit to Celsius. Let's say that you grew up with the metric system, and your American pal tells you that it's going to be a scorching 120 F in Death Valley. You'd like to put that in more familiar terms, namely, Celsius, to get a better feel for things. Is your friend just a whiner, or does he have a point?

Here we'll just run the rule backwards, since we're going F-to-C instead of C-to-F. Instead of doubling it and adding 30, we subtract 30 and then cut it in half.

So we'll take 120 F and subtract 30; this gives us 90. Then we cut 90 in half; this gives us 45. Thus, we see that 120 F is approximately 45 C. Yeah, that's doggone hot. Tell your friend to move to Saipan, where the temperatures are usually in the, uh, more mild 30's.

If we grab the calculator again for a reality check, we see that the exact answer is about 48.9 C. Again, close enough for casual use.

Like most rules of thumb, this one has a limited context for its application, which, here, is the range of temperatures that we usually encounter at the pedestrian level. By contrast, other contexts might produce errors that are too large to be acceptable.

Now we get to the buried treasure: Our rule of thumb can help us employ the actual formula. Maybe you care. Maybe you don't. But for those who do, let's take a look.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



You'll recall that pesky nine-fifths multiplier from the actual formula. If you've got a head for numbers, you'll recognize that nine-fifths is the same at 1.8. Hey, that's pretty close to the "double it" multiplier of two, right? Yep. And the 32 in the exact formula is pretty close to the 30 used in the rule of thumb, right? Yep, again. Once you know "double it and add 30," it's not too hard to change it to "multiply it by 1.8 it and add 32," and this is, indeed, the actual formula.

We can test this by noting that water boils at 100 C, which is the same as 212 F; this is a famous equivalence and a common schoolbook fact. Let's work the actual formula from the 100 C mark. We'll multiply 100 by 1.8; this gives us 180. We'll then add 32; this gives us 212. So our answer is 212 F. This checks out perfectly. Ain't life grand? Our rule of thumb made it easy to shift our minds to the actual formula so we could do the more precise conversion.

No matter how hot it gets under the sun, knowing how to "double it and add 30" can make you look like a very cool cat.

Trial vs Hokog/MV Luta goes on

he trial in the lawsuit against Biktot Hokog and principals of the MV *Luta* would proceed in court sometime in the near-term.

Per the Ballas decision, Hokog can't be sued as a

Per the Bellas decision, Hokog can't be sued as a legislator. But the court leaves everything else in the lawsuit for judicial disposition.

The issues include the violation of the ethics law (Open Government Act) and the illegal release of the \$400,000 without legislative appropriation.

Lest we forget, the ethics law came via a legislative initiative where voters approved accountability for all public officials. It's a powerful voice of "we the people" to ensure corruption doesn't spread in our democratic institutions.

I heard the Office of the Public Auditor has completed ocular review of the \$400,000. Its findings and recommendations piques my interest.

Pertinent provisions of law says, "If the person investigated is the governor or lieutenant governor and the public auditor finds that corrective action should be taken, the public auditor shall make his or her report public."

Where the law turns interesting is the mandate that the public auditor submits such report to the Attorney General's Office for disposition. What would the AG do in the event of findings of violation of laws and recommended actions given that it represents Hokog in this case? Would the AG still do due diligence to recover the \$400,000 in taxpayers' money? It's an interesting conflicting case of representation that should not have been permitted from the outset.

There's hope, though, that through trial or evidentiary hearing

FAREWELL

From Page 12

especially well, as he told us. Among his inspiring speech remarks was his emphasis on solidarity, of trying to put ourselves in the shoes of racial minorities, immigrants, refugees, the rural poor and—liberals should listen—"the middle-aged white guy who from the outside may seem like he's got all the advantages but has seen his world upended by economic and cultural and technological change."

For all my criticisms from maybe a different bubble than his, I see much that has been good and inspiring in him.

we would find, via a demand for an accounting of expenditure, how and where the money was spent. Moving the MV *Luta* from Louisiana to Rota won't cost more than \$150,000. How much of the \$400,000 went for the trip and where else was the balance in taxpayers' money spent?

The innocent, comprising of *all* taxpayers, must be protected in this and every other scheme to milk them of their hard-earned taxes. As it is, every public official is culpable to wrongfully dispose of public funds either out of pure ignorance or willful disposition.

Perils of 'touch DNA'

The assumption that DNA is synonymous with "guilty" in the investigation of crimes isn't quite what we make it to be! There's "touch DNA" that "exposes the double edge sword of forensic science," according to a piece by Michelle Malkin, a conservative blogger and nationally syndicated columnist.

"With just an innocent handshake, an indirect transfer of epithelial cells, you could find yourself suspected of heinous crimes, charged with rape or convicted of murder," she pointed out. She's committed to shedding light on the use and abuse of touch DNA in the criminal justice system. "Detection methods involving tinier and tinier DNA samples have advanced rapidly during the last three decades."

She asserts that the "mere presence of DNA does not prove a crime happened. It does not tell you how or when the material got to its discovered location. Contrary to Hollywood crime show oversimplifications, DNA is not a synonym for 'guilty'."

"At the annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences conference last February, experts spotlighted the case of a homeless man charged with murdering a Silicon Valley mogul at his mansion—despite the accused being hospitalized, nearly comatose and under 24/7 medical supervision the night the crime occurred in 2012," Malkin related.

"As *Scientific American* reported, the defendant's DNA had been transferred inadvertently by paramedics who had touched and treated him three hours before arriving at the businessman's home. The EMTs used the same oxygen monitor on both men's fingers, unknowingly transferring skin cell DNA from the homeless man to the multimillionaire he had never met.

"The case provided a definitive example of 'a DNA transfer implicating an innocent person," the journal noted, and illustrated "a growing opinion that the criminal justice system's reliance

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



on DNA evidence, often treated as infallible, actually carries significant risks," she pointed out.

It's good for our system of justice here to be wary of this finding so DNA isn't used as the infallible tool or synonymous with "guilty." It's bad enough that here on the islands you're guilty until proven otherwise. But isn't it more like an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a competent court of law? Where did I learn this?

Land compensation

We are humbled by a move by the NMI to pay longstanding land taking cases due the landowners for more than 30 to 60 years. Payment is focused on the largest amount owed in an effort to cut down interests the NMI must still pay as it settles other cases.

The issue reminded the undersigned what's owed the family (grandparents) for the use of their land in Oleai for public access (main thoroughfare and entrance to the Oleai Elementary School).

Grandpa (Elias P. Sablan) could not possibly submit any claims to it. He was the land title officer, the equivalence of the secretary of the Department of Public Land. It would have raised eyebrows, legitimate the claim may be.

Over 30 years later, I sat in his chair as secretary of DPL and purposely skipped the issue altogether. I recalled grandpa's words about public service, that it is about "others" first, thus the fitting decision to shove any claims to the Oleai land. I'm now out of the bind and ready to litigate the issue to claim what's rightfully the purview of the Sablan clan.

For the longest time we've heard the redundancy of "just compensation." Putting in a claim for it now is the only way to ensure that my grandparents are justly paid for their property they've given up for the main road in Oleai.

14 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN



▼79°

Mostly sunny with a showers. Southeast

slight chance of light **87° ▼79°**



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light

▲ 88°

▼79°

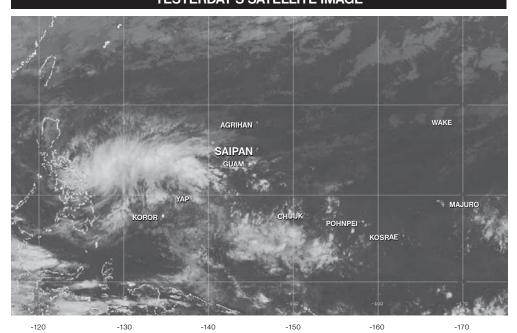
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light

▲ 89° **▼79°**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▼79°

▲ 88°



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few showers are still lingering over the Marianas this morning. A drier trade-wind pattern is developing to the east and is expected to filter to the Marianas over the next couple of days. Mostly light showers are expected through tonight; a moderate shower or two remains a slight possibility. If things pan out as predicted by the models, next week could see a few days of no showers at all. Latest buoy readings show seas of 5 to 7 feet continuing this morning. Seas are expected to slowly subside over the weekend, falling to between 3 and 4 feet by Sunday. Moderate trade winds today are also expected to slowly subside to gentle over the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

4	▲ ▼ °F
Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
	Partly Cloudy Thunderstorm Thunderstorm Thunderstorm Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy

Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 16°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	64° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 66°
London	Partly Cloudy	42° / 32°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Manila	Showers	86° / 75°
Melbourne	Cloudy	72° / 57°
Miami	Showers	77° / 69°
New York	Mostly Sunny	47° / 27°
Osaka	Partly Sunny	41° / 32°
Paris	Showers	39° / 28°
Pusan	Sunny	36° / 19°
Rome	Rain	55° / 34°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	74° / 50°
San Francisco	Cloudy	42° / 26°
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 12°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	43° / 28°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	50° / 31°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
2:08 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.66
9:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05
2:37 PM	LOW TIDE	1.08
7:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.06

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:46 AM	6:05 PM
6:47 AM	6:06 PM
6:47 AM	6:06 PM
6:47 AM	6:07 PM
6:47 AM	6:07 PM
	6:46 AM 6:47 AM 6:47 AM 6:47 AM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:04 AM	6:55 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	7:53 PM
Sunday	-	8:48 AM	8:49 PM
Monday	-	9:33 AM	9:42 PM
Tuesday	-	10:16 AM	10:33 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@ saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2017

SAIPAN-	GUAM (GI	JM)		GU
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA63
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA63
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA63
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA63
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA63
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA63

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

2:35pm 3:10pm UA6391 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) 2:10am 6:00am 07626 TW308 2:35am 6:25am OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 3:05am 6:55am TW308 2. 3. 4. 5. 6 OZ628 3:50am 7:40am Daily 7C3403 4:35am 8:30am Daily LJ652 3:10pm 7:05pm Daily 7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily ZE582 4:30pm 9:05pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 2:55am 6:10am 1, 7 OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 7 3:15am 6:30am 7C3451 4, 5

3:55am 7:30am 3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 5:40am 8:00am 3U8648 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) 1:30am 6:55am

4:30am 7:50am

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

MU764

3U8646

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ626/701 1 via ICN 2:10am 10:50am OZ626/701 2:50am 10:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:30am Daily via GUM PR1572 5:45am 7:45am 4, 7 UA6391/183 1:30pm 9:30pm 5 via Rota-GUM

UA6391/183 1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM 1:30pm 9:50pm UA6391/193 1:30pm 11:10pm 5 via Rota-GUM-ROR UA6390/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM UA6390/183 2:20pm 9:50pm UA6390/193 2:20pm 11:10pm 2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) HX077 2:15am 5:15am 1, 4 1 via ICN OZ626/721 2:10am 11:50am OZ626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ628/723 3:50am 12:50pm Daily via ICN PR1572/318 5:45am 12:20pm 4, 7 via MNL 1:30pm 10:35pm UA6391/159 1, 5 via Rota-GUM UA6390/159 2:20pm 10:35pm 3 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS AM (GUM)-SAIPAN 2:45am 3:35am 393 Daily 395 7:15am 8:05am Daily 12:10pm 1:00pm 391 1, 4, 5, 7 390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota 397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily

2. 3. 6

Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

10:25am 2:55pm

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN LJ651 8:25am 1:45pm Daily ZE581 9:50am 3:20pm Daily 7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily 07625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 TW307 8:15pm 1:35am+1 OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 TW307 8:45pm 2:05am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 OZ627 9:30pm 2:50am+1 10:10pm 3:30am+1 7C3404 Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN 7C3452 8:30pm 1:20am+1 6, 7 OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 6 9:35pm 2:15am+1 3.4 7C3452

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN 7C3434 10:05pm 2:40am+1 2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 **BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

MU763 4:40pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:50pm 2:40am+1 1, 5

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM OZ702/625 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/625 12:30pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR1571 10:25pm 4:45am+1 3. 6 UA192/6395 10:20pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via ROR-GUM PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/6395 10:55pm 8:05am+1 UA184/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 2. 5 via GUM

OZ722/625 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN OZ722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+1 OZ724/627 2:20pm 2:50am+1 Daily via ICN 5:50pm 12:45am+1 3, 7 HX076 6:20pm 4:45am+1 PR307/1571 3, 6 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM UA116/6395 9:55pm 8:05am+1

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, HK HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR WARIANAS AIR, INC.										
TINIAN	TO SAIPA	.N	6:30PM 6:30PM	6:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			.,					
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed,	SAIPAN	TO TINIA	١N	SAIPAN	TO ROTA	\		
		Thu, Fri, Sat	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DOTA TO	CAIDAN			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	ROTA TO	SAIPAN			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		

Amata reacts to Shulkin's selection for VA Secretary



American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata and Dr. David Shulkin, who has been appointed to lead the Department of Veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Aumua Amata of American Samoa issued the following statement in reaction to Dr. David Shulkin being appointed to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I am happy to see that the President-elect has chosen Dr. David Shulkin to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Shulkin is currently serving as the Undersecretary of Health with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and acts at the chief executive of the Veterans Health Administration in that role.

"I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Shulkin back in September, and from that meeting, I can confidently say that he is committed to helping our veterans in American Samoa. His career as a physician and his time spent serving as the Undersecretary for the VA will make the transition that much easier, as well as improve the level of care our veterans are receiving. Dr. Shulkin will be a fantastic leader for the VA, and I look forward to working with him and the department for our veterans through my duties in the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"I remain committed to working with my fellow colleagues on the Veterans Affairs committee, and with the new administration to ensure that veterans in American Samoa receive the same benefits and services as the states and other territories." (PR)

'YOUR HUMANITIES HALF-HOUR' Focus on civil rights issues

In observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, this week's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program will feature topics dealing with civil rights.

Executive director Jim Rayphand and projects specialist Greg Borja of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. will share about the role of the office and the responsibility of the government, employers, and private sectors to ensure accessibility to people with disabilities.

Also, John Davis Jr. and legal counsel Jeanne Rayphand will discuss that landmark case Davis v. Commonwealth Election Commission, in which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently affirmed that quailed voters who are not of Northern Marianas descent must have the opportunity to vote on Article 12 initiatives.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour," which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris. Be sure to tune in. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR **Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 • www.crm.gov.mp



Frances A. Castro Director

BLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the CNMI Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment of maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon accepting a complete application, BECQ notifies the applicant to publish a notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality. A thirty (30) day public period commences from the data of the first publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification:

- Applicant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
- Applicable Statutory Authority: Clean Water Act, PL 92-500 (33 U.S.C. 1251 ex. Seq.), CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI, Water Quality Standards (NMIAC Title 65 Chapter 130). Location of Proposed Activity: Territorial waters of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [note: the
- draft General Permit covers geographic areas where EPA is the permitting authority including four states, Indian country lands in various states and the U.S. Pacific Island territories, but for the purposes of this water quality certification, DEQ is only concerned with CNMI waters.]
- Description of Proposed Activity: Renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities. This General Permit authorizes and regulates stormwater discharges from construction activities. Rather than apply for an individual stormwater discharge permit, construction activities can notify BECQ and EPA of their intent to control, treat, and discharge their stormwater under the requirements of the General Permit. If BECQ grants water quality certification for EPA's General Permit, then construction activities that intend to discharge stormwater under the requirements of the General Permit need not seek additional water quality certification from BECQ. However, industries that intend to discharge stormwater under the requirements of the General Permit are still required to submit Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans to BECQ for approval.
- More information: For additional information on EPA's NPDES Construction General Permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities, visit EPA's Construction General Permit (CGP) website at https://www.epa.gov/npdes/epas-draft-2017-construction-general-permit-cgp or download the Fact Sheet at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-04/documents/proposed_2017_cgp_factsheet_final.pdf.

Public Notice Date: December 30, 2016

Comment Period Closes: January 30, 2017

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to BECQ within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice. Please mail comments to: Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP, 96950, or e-mail frankrabauliman@becq.gov.mp.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

(S-14-035)

CUC-IFB-17-010

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately \pm 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, \pm 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and \pm 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

 $This project is funded \ by \ a \ grant from \ the \ United \ Sates \ of Environmental \ Protection \ Agency \ (USEPA). \ The \ award \ of this \ project \ is \ contingent \ upon \ project \ is \ project \ project$ receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in $\underline{\bf 300~calendar~days}$ from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a proceded for days of the requirement. period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information of understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, A Bia claurantee of intend (13%) percent of the total pilot price must accompany the bits. In escentry deposit may be it cash, certified effect, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent count any and an taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on Ianuary 17, 2016 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny sablan@cucgow.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgow.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgow.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

MANNY B. SABLAN

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16 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Q&A: How Trump says he will break from famed businesses

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump says he is leaving his famed business behind.

Well, sort of.

That is the muddled message from the president-elect's news conference Wednesday about plans to separate himself from his business while in office to avoid conflicts of interest.

Trump and his lawyer portrayed his moves as extraordinary. Ethics lawyers who've worked with previous presidents in both parties had other opinions: uninspiring, inadequate.

The clash of views reflects different ideas of what "separation" should mean and how far Trump should go to avoid the desire for private profit coming before the pursuit of public good.

Trump says handing over management control, stopping international deals and appointing a watchdog of sorts to monitor conflicts is enough, and far more than required under law. His critics say that he should do what most modern presidents have done: sell his business holdings completely.

A look at what Trump says he'll do, and why the debate over it is so heated and important:

What does Trump's plan include?

Trump outlined three parts to allay conflicts.

First, he said he will put his business assets in a trust and hand over management control of his company to his two adult sons and a longtime Trump Organization executive. Second, he has vowed to wall himself off from communications about his company, including discussing it business interests," she said. with his children. Third, he promised no new deals overseas. The company will also appoint an ethics officer who would have to approve any deals in the U.S. that would raise concerns about conflicts.

Trump announced several smaller moves, like a liquidation of his securities portfolio. He also said he would also donate any profits from foreign government payments at his hotels to the U.S. Treasury.

At the news conference, Sheri Dillon, an attorney who helped prepare the Trump plan, called the steps "extraordinary.'

"President-elect Trump wants there to be no doubt in the minds of the American public that he is completely isolating himself from his

So what is the problem here?

Ethics lawyers who have worked for presidents in both parties say the plan leaves Trump far too open to shape regulations, taxes and foreign policy to enrich himself, and for other people to try to curry favor with him. He has hotels and resorts in the U.S. that can be sued in U.S. courts and must follow labor regulations. As president, he will appoint people with big influence over those areas.

Foreign governments could create plenty of trouble, too. They could seek to influence him by rewarding or punishing his business interests in their countries. Trump has struck deals for hotels, residential towers and resorts in South Korea, the Philippines, Uruguay, Turkey and many other countries.

Even if Trump always acts in the public interest, these legal experts say, there will be damage. Rightly or wrongly. people will harbor doubts about the real motives behind U.S. policy, and all the second guessing could compromise the moral authority of the office of the president.

Walter Shaub, the director of the Office of Government Ethics, pointed to this ephemeral, crucial quality of a president in a speech following Trump's news conference.

"Officials in any administration need their president to show them that ethics matters, not only through words but through deeds," he said.

Chao says private investors can help boost transportation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The incoming Trump administration is looking to "unleash the potential" of private investors to boost the national transportation networks that underpin the U.S. economy, the president-elect's pick for transportation secretary, Elaine Chao, told lawmakers Wednesday.

Economic gains are being "jeopardized" by aging infrastructure, rising highway fatalities, growing congestion and a failure to keep pace with emerging technologies, Chao testified before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

Chao, 63, is expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate. She was labor secretary during George W. Bush's administration and deputy transportation secretary under President George H.W. Bush. Her husband is Senate Majority Leader Mitch Mc-Connell, R-Ky.

When McConnell introduced Chao at the hearing, he stole a line from former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole: "I regret I have but one wife to give for my country's infrastructure." Dole's wife, Elizabeth, is a former transportation and labor secretary.

Chao joked, "I will be working to lock in the majority leader's support tonight over dinner."

But she hasn't been immune from criticism. Unions say that as labor secretary, she mostly sided with industry when enforcing labor and safety rules.

Chao advocated using "innovative financing tools" that can "take full advantage of the estimated trillions in capital that equity firms, pension funds and endowments can invest." She said private investment should be encouraged with "a bold, new vision."

In VW case, US takes aim at employees, not just corporation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany have been indicted in the U.S. in the automaker's emissionscheating scandal as prosecutors made good on efforts to charge individuals in a corporate corruption case.

But bringing them to trial in the U.S. is another matter.

In announcing the federal charges and a corporate plea bargain by Volkswagen, Justice Department prosecutors on Wednesday detailed a large and elaborate scheme inside the German automaker to commit fraud and then cover it up, with at least

40 employees allegedly involved in destroying evidence.

The company agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion - by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

"Volkswagen obfuscated, they denied and they ultimately lied," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said.

But prosecutors may have trouble bringing the executives to trial in the U.S. German law generally bars extradition of the country's citizens except within the European Union. Privately, Justice officials expressed little optimism that the five VW executives still at large will be arrested, unless they surrender or travel outside Germany.

Still, the criminal charges are a major breakthrough for a Justice Department that been under pressure to hold individuals accountable for corporate misdeeds ever since the 2008 financial crisis.

U.S. authorities are still investigating just how high the scheme went, and held out the possibility of charges against more VW executives.

"We will continue to pursue the individuals responsible for orchestrating this damaging conspiracy," Lynch said.

VW admitted installing software in diesel engines on nearly 600,000 VW, Porsche and Audi vehicles in the U.S. that activated pollution controls during government tests and switched them off in realworld driving. The software allowed the cars to spew harmful nitrogen oxide at up to 40 times above the legal limit.

U.S. regulators confronted VW about the software after university researchers discovered differences in testing and realworld emissions. Volkswagen at first denied the use of the socalled defeat device but finally admitted it in September 2015.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP17-DFEMS-027

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

TIME: 10:00A.M.

"SUPPLY OF TOWING AND STORAGE **SERVICES ON SAIPAN** FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS,

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO LT. MANUEL A CABRERA BY E-MAIL AT macabrera@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 31, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA Commissioner
Department of Fire and
Emergency Medical Services

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN Director,
Procurement and Supply



Rota

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



"Together We Can Build a Future"

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Input Sought Regarding the Independent Living Older **Blind Program Policies and Procedures**

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will be holding a public forum on the proposed policy and procedure's revisions to its Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program. The proposed policy revisions are

www.ovrgov.net - Independent Living Older Blind Program Policies and Procedures

The forum is scheduled for all three islands (Saipan/Rota/Tinian) to solicit comments from a representative and diverse population. The date, time and locations are as follows:

Saipan **Tinian**

Rm. D1 (Saipan Campus) (Tinian Campus) Date: 01/31/17 Time: 10:00-11:30 am Location: Office on Aging

All interested persons are hereby given the opportunity to participate by submitting data, views, or recommendations orally or in writing. If you need auxiliary aids or other accommodation, please contact Elvira Seman of OVR at 322-6537/38 or nmidir@ovrgov.net

Written comments must be submitted no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. or postmarked (P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950) by Friday, February 3, 2017, or by faxing it to 322-6548.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT** REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REP NO.: RFP17-DFEMS-037 TIME: 10:00A.M.

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MOTOR OPERATED **ALUMINUM ROLL-UP GRILLES AT VARIOUS** STATIONS ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO LT. MANUEL A CABRERA BY E-MAIL AT macabrera@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 03, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA Commissioner
Department of Fire and
Emergency Medical Services

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN Director,
Procurement and Supply

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 **17** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Combative Trump concedes Russia's role in election hacking

NEW YORK (AP)—In a combative and freewheeling news conference, Presidentelect Donald Trump said for the first time Wednesday that he accepts Russia was behind the election year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race. Looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico

will pay the cost of a border wall.

The hour-long spectacle in the marbled lobby of Trump's Manhattan skyscraper was his first news conference since winning the election in early November. and

the famously unconventional politician demonstrated he had not been changed by the weight of his victory.

Trump

He defiantly denied reports that Russia had collected compromising personal and financial information about him, lambasting the media for peddling "fake news" and shouting down a journalist from CNN, which reported on the matter. His family and advisers clapped and cheered him on throughout.

Trump's transition has been shadowed by U.S. intelligence assessments that Russia not only meddled in the election, but did so to help him defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. After spending weeks challenging that idea, Trump finally accepted at least part of the intelligence conclusions.

"As far as hacking, I think it was Russia," Trump said, quickly adding that "other countries and other people" also hack U.S. interests. Still, he kept needling the intelligence agencies, saying it would be a "tremendous blot" on their record if officials were leaking information from his classified briefings.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a statement later that he had

Texas carries out first US execution of 2017

(AP)—Texas on Wednesday put to death an inmate convicted of killing two men over a phony drug deal, the first U.S. execution of 2017.

Christopher Wilkins, 48, was declared dead at 6:29 p.m., 13 minutes after a lethal injection of pentobarbital.

Before the drug was administered, he twice mouthed "I'm sorry," to two relatives of one of the murder victims as they watched through a window. He gave no final statement.

Wilkins had explained to jurors at his capital murder spoken with Trump Wednesday evening and told him he does not believe any leaks came from the intelligence community.

One U.S. official told The Associated Press Tuesday night that intelligence people had informed Trump last week about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about him. Some media outlets reported on the

> document, which contains unproven information alleging close coordibetween nation Trump's inner circle and Russians, as well as unverified claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump. The

AP has not authenticated any of the claims.

Clapper said Wednesday he had told Trump the intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

Wednesday's news conference was initially billed as a chance for Trump to answer questions about his plans for distancing himself from his sprawling, family-owned real estate and licensing business. Lawyer Sheri Dillon stepped to the lectern midway through the event to announce that the president-elect was relinquishing control of the Trump Organization to his adult sons and an executive, as well as putting his business assets in a trust. While new international business deals will be banned, the company will be allowed to start new projects in the U.S.

The move appears to contradict a previous pledge by the president-elect. In a tweet last month, Trump said that "no new deals" would be done while he was in office.

With dramatic flair, Trump aides piled stacks of manila folders on a table next to the lectern—in front of 10 American flags—before the news conference began. Trump said

Texas trial in 2008 how and why he killed his friends in Fort Worth three years earlier, saying he didn't care if they sentenced him to death.

> Wilkins shot Willie Freeman, 40 and Mike Silva, 33, after Freeman and an unidentified drug supplier duped Wilkins into paying \$20 for a piece of gravel he thought was crack cocaine, according to court records.

> Freeman was killed on Oct. 28, 2005, after he laughed about the scam and Silva was shot because he was there, Wilkins said.

the folders contained documents he had signed formalizing the new business arrangements, though journalists were not able to view and independently verify the materials.

Some 250 journalists crammed into the Trump Tower lobby for the news conference, which was not only Trump's first since the election, but his first since July. Journalists shouted for his attention. At times, he skipped

not want to answer, including an inquiry about whether he would keep in place sanctions Obama slapped on Russia in retaliation for the electionrelated hacking.

Until Wednesday, Trump had spent most of his two months as president-elect doling out policy pronouncements, attacks on critics and boasts about his victory in 140-character increments on

past questions he appeared to Twitter. His preferred mode of communication has left some of his positions vaguean approach that is often by Trump's design. The president-elect set

> Wednesday, though specifics continued to be in short supply on some of his major campaign promises.

> some concrete policy markers

He promised that a replacement for Obama's sweeping health care overhaul would be offered "essentially simultaneously" with a congressional vote to repeal the measure. The complexity of the policy changes makes quick passage of a new health care law virtually impossible, and Trump is yet to detail what he wants included. He said his team would send a plan to Congress after Rep. Tom Price, his pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, is confirmed.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 www.crm.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTIC

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 13, 2017

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding the proposed reissuance of existing Nationwide Permit with some updates. The Corps is proposing two new Nationwide Permits for "Removal of Low-Head Dams" and "Living Shorelines" and the addition of general conditions regarding "activities affecting structures or works built by the United States" for the 2017 Nationwide Permits.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

More information on the Corps' proposed Final 2017 Nationwide Permits and the federal consistency determination request can be found at DCRM's website: http://ow.ly/aAce301vFYc

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at erinderrington@becq.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, starting on January 13, 2017 and ending on February 13, 2017 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period.

We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOI P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES** PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-17

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, nmonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning **December 16, 2016** upon payment of \$100.00 to be made at CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, mentioned above until 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 13, 2017. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-003-17". Bidders are to submit one (1) original

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: December 16, 2016



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR CAVITY REPAIRS AT THE SAIPAN HARBOR Project No. CPA-SS-001-17

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Engineering Design Services for cavity repairs at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-17.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wend i. Parter, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-5500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 20, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria

- 1. Overall engineering design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern
- Mariana Islands—20 points.

 Engineering design experience related to seaport/harbor projects; —40 points;

 Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects—15 points.

 The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of engineering design work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence—15 points, and 5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable—10 points.
- Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: January 5, 2017



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220 Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. November 16, 2016 Regular Meeting
 - Public Comments**
- III. Management Reports
 - **Executive Director**
 - Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
 - Update on EPA Grant Projects
 - Deputy Executive Director
 - Chief Financial Officer
- Legal Counsel IV. Executive Session***
 - Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel and
- **Operation Matters** Board Reports Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business
 - Personnel Committee
 - Operation Committee
- VI. Adjournment

- Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting. Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session.

Newly leaked dossier on Trump circulated in DC for months

WASHINGTON (AP) -- It was a bombshell story, emerging on the eve of Donald Trump's first news conference as president-elect: U.S. intelligence officials had presented Trump with unsubstantiated claims that Russia had amassed compromising personal and financial allegations about him.

The purported Russian efforts were described in a newly released and uncorroborated dossier produced in August. But they had circulated more widely in Washington in October—following early reports and opaque warnings from elected officials that something was afoot involving the Kremlin and Trump.

In October, Mother Jones magazine described how a former Western spy—assigned to look into Trump's Russian ties

for a private American firm had presented his findings to the FBI in August. Those findings, the magazine said, were produced for political opposition research and said that Russian intelligence had compromised Trump during his visits to Moscow-information that, if true, could be used to blackmail him or undermine his presidency.

The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday identified the dossier's author as Christopher Steele, a director of Londonbased Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd., whom the Journal said declined repeated requests for interviews through an intermediary. Another Orbis director told the Journal he wouldn't "confirm or deny" that Orbis had produced the report.

Efforts to reach him by The

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-001

ROAD MARKING & SIGNAGE UPGRADE ROUTE 21, ROUTE 24-EAST & ROUTE 27, TINIAN

Governor Ralph Dlg, Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Road Marking & Signage Upgrade Route 21, Route 24-East & Route 27, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available in Electronic Files on January 6, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.'

Associated Press were not immediately successful. There was no answer after hours at Orbis Business Intelligence, at a fivestory stone building across from London's Lower Grosvenor Gardens, about two blocks from Buckingham Palace. There was no listed number for Steele's address in Wokingham, about 30 miles west of London.

CNN reported Tuesday night that Trump had been briefed in a classified setting about a summary of the investigator's findings.

Meanwhile, BuzzFeed published the 35-page dossier Tuesday night. The website defended publishing the report because it said Americans 'can make up their own minds about allegations about the president-elect." Other news outlets withheld publishing

most details about the unverified claims because they couldn't confirm them.

Shortly after reports were published late Tuesday about the dossier, Trump tweeted: "FAKE NEWS—A TO-TAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!" The president-elect said at a combative news conference Wednesday that the allegations were "phony stuff" leaked by "sick people."

In October, then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid wrote to the FBI asking it to publicly disclose what it knew about any Trump campaign

"It has become clear that you possess explosive information about close ties and coordination between Donald Trump, his top advisers, and the Russian government—a foreign interest openly hostile to the United States, which Trump praises at every opportunity. The public has a right to know this information," Reid wrote on Oct. 30.

He said he learned of the information from FBI Director Jim Comey and from other top U.S. national security officials. It wasn't immediately

clear how much Reid knew specifically of the compromising information versus Russian hacking activity in general.

A few weeks later, in mid-November, Sen. John McCain became aware of the allegations but decided it was impossible to verify them without a proper investigation, according to a report Wednesday by The Guardian. The newspaper reported McCain was reluctant to get involved because it could be seen as payback for insults Trump made about the Arizona Republican during the campaign.

girl raped, tortured and killed

ACROSS THE NATION

Kin of slain churchgoers confront gunman for last time

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)— One by one, family members of nine slain black parishioners confronted Dylann Roof for the last time Wednesday, shouting at him, offering forgiveness and even offering to visit him in prison as he awaits execution for the slaughter. The 22-year-old avowed white supremacist refused to meet their gaze and simply stared ahead, his head tilted down slightly as it had been for much of his trial. That came a day after jurors sentenced an unrepentant Roof to death. On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel formally confirmed the sentence.

Girl killed in 'rapemurder fantasy endured life of abuse

A 14-year-old Pennsylvania



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

<u>"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT</u>

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

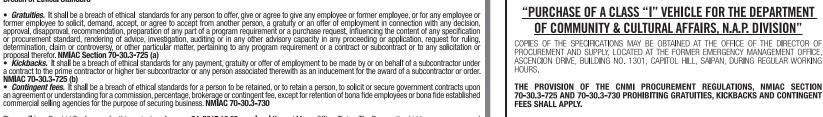
TB NO.: ITB 17-DCCA/NAP-072

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, N.A.P. DIVISION"

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER SECRETARY OF DCCA



Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on <u>January 24, 2017</u> 10:00 a.m. local time at Mayor Office, Tinian. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All guestions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on <u>February 7, 2017</u> to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be malled or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 10, 2017 and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 21, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations \$70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
 b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Cash
 Gov't Securities
 Socks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
 Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
 Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement & Supply



2015 Honda Accord **Sport 4 Dr Sedan**

Vehicle may be viewed at Bank of Saipan Chalan Kanoa Branch on Friday January 13, 2017, January 20, 2017 and January 27, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Last day for Bidding is Monday January 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call Loan Department for (Martin SN. Dela Cruz) at 235-6260 Extensions 1210r 123. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.



Marianas Pride

at her adoptive mother's home had been abused or neglected in at least three homes during her short life. A lawyer for Grace Packer's birth parents told The Associated Press they lost custody of the toddler over allegations that other adults were sexually abusing their young children. Grace was then adopted by adoption worker Sara Packer when she was 3, only to have Packer's husband go to prison after molesting Grace when she was 9. He also was found guilty of raping a 15-year-old foster child. Authorities near Philadelphia this week charged Sara Packer and a boyfriend with killing Grace in a "rapemurder fantasy" carried out over many hours. (AP) Police accuse 2 of helping fugitive before officer's killing ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Police leading a massive manhunt for the suspected killer of

an Orlando officer on Wednesday collected hundreds of tips and announced the arrests of two people who allegedly aided the fugitive, promising to reward anyone who turns him in, and punish anyone who helps him hide. Court records show that Markeith Loyd's niece, 27-year-old Lakensha Smith-Loyd, was arrested on an accessory charge Wednesday, a day after the fugitive's supervisor at a fried chicken restaurant, Zarghee Mayan, was arrested on the same charge. Mayan's arrest affidavit said Smith-Loyd collected money from him to give to her uncle in the days after the slaving of his exgirlfriend in mid-December. Smith-Loyd's affidavit says she contacted deputies after the ex-girlfriend's murder and promised to help them find her uncle if they first told her whether a firearm had been recovered from the murder scene. Then she stopped cooperating even as she contacted others on her uncle's behalf, the affidavit said.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

PH won't raise legal victory vs China at Asean

pines (AP)—The Philippines won't raise its recent arbitration victory against Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea during Asian summit talks that it will host this year, Foreign

Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said Wednesday.

Yasay said pressing last year's ruling at the annual meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations "is just simply counter-productive."

The Philippines intends to changed by discusraise the ruling, which invalidated China's historic claims under a 1982 U.N. treaty, in bilateral talks with Beijing in the future, Yasay said, stressing that the arbitration decision is final and won't be

sions at international conferences.

'We are not going to raise this issue ... because there is really no useful benefit," Yasay said at a news conference. Duterte "This is a matter

that we will be raising with China at some future time in bilateral talks and to do and involve others in the discussion of this decision is just simply counter-productive for our purposes."

"Now if any country would like to pursue their respective claims against China with respect to a disputed territory in the South China Sea, they can do so and perhaps use the decision of the arbitral tribunal as a precedent-setting case in pursuing the matter," he said.

The Philippines was previously one of the most vocal critics of China at the annual ASEAN meetings as Beijing asserted its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea.

After China took control of disputed Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and blocked

Filipinos from the rich fishing area, then President Benigno Aquino III brought his country's territorial disputes with Beijing to international arbitration. China ignored the Philippine case and refused to recognize the outcome, which was heavily in favor of the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who succeeded Aquino in June, has taken dramatic steps to mend strained relations with China. He has also taken an antagonistic stance against the administration of outgoing President Barack Obama after the U.S. leader criticized his deadly crackdown on illegal drugs.

As host of the ASEAN meetings this year, the Philippines is in a position to influence their focus and the joint communiques issued at the end of the conferences. China, the U.S. and Russia and other Western and Asian nations will join expanded meetings later in the year.

Yasay said the Philippines will push for the faster completion of a long-delayed "code of conduct" between China and ASEAN to discourage aggressive actions that could ratchet up tensions in the South China Sea, a busy waterway for world trade.

The Philippines wants the framework of the nonaggression pact to be completed within the first half of this year, Yasay said. The prospects for the signing of a legally binding regional code remain unclear.



MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered government agencies to ensure free access to contraceptives for 6 million women who cannot obtain them, officials said Wednesday, in a move expected to be opposed by the dominant Roman Catholic church.

Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said the intensified drive to make contraceptives available and ensure "zero unmet need for family planning" is important to reduce poverty. He said

to cut the poverty rate from 21.6 percent in 2015 to 14 or 13 percent by the end of Duterte's term in 2022.

The executive order Duterte signed Monday said out of the 6 million women with unmet needs for modern family planning, 2 million have been identified as poor. The 2 million women should have access to them by 2018, and all the rest thereafter, the order added.

It also directs government agencies to locate couples with unmet family planning

the government's target is needs, mobilize agencies up to the village level and partner with civil society in intensifying the drive.

> The Philippines is the only Asia-Pacific country where the rate of teen pregnancies rose over the last two decades, the U.N. Population Fund said last year. It said the slow decline of the country's overall fertility rate may deprive the Philippines of faster economic growth expected in similar countries that have more working-age people than younger and older dependents.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

INVITATION TO BID



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

TIME: 10:30 A.M. "PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF <u>COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"</u>

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF,

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER SECRETARY OF DCCA /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB17-DCCA/DYS-075 (CIF TINIAN)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, **DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES**"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER SECRETARY OF DCCA



CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB 17-DCCA/DYS-073 (A) (B)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

<u>'Purchase of a class "I" vehicle and a 4x4 pick up truck</u> **4 DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESO, F0122 Robert Tenorio Torres

THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., RAMON P. AGULTO AND DALIA R. AGULTO Defendants.

TENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010 I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of th right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagmar Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particular described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwea**l**th Recorder Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder Office, Saipan, the description therein is being incorporated herein by this reference.

<u>Date, Time and Place of Sale.</u> The sale will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan. Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale DATED, this 9th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionee

Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Plaintiff. **Civil Action** SUMMONS MURPHY P. REYES,

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, MURPHY P.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **COMPLAINT**, a copy of which is given to you this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres**, **Attorney** at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above–entitled

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 5950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by nessenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this the 25 day of May. 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., CIVIL ACTION Plaintiff. DONALD C. CAMACHO

EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

ssued by the Court in this matter on May 4 2011 2006 will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the erms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following roperty: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99–2037 at the Commonwea<mark>l</mark>th Recorder's Office, Saipan

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held n Friday, February 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White LLC. Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and

Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale DATED, this 9th day of January, 2017.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionee

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT : CIVIL ACTION EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, : NO. 05-382 Plaintiff. MARIANO S. NAPUTI,

THIRTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

ssued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described or Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwea**l**th Recorder's Office, Saipan

Date Time and Place of Sale The sale will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Cente Susure Sainan Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale DATED, this 9th day of January, 2017.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioned



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.crm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the Rota Department of Public Works Rock (RDPW) Coral Quarry project. The RDPW is proposing to open and operate the limestone quarry situated in Igua, Rota, specifically on Lot No.3425. Excavated materials will be used to maintain public roads, streets, highways, and community projects in Rota.

A public hearing is scheduled for January 31, 2017, at 6:00PM at the Rota Office of the Mayor.

Written comments may be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Rota Coral Quarry project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro Director Division of Coastal Resources Management **20** FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

World

Turkey bogged down in Syria as it realigns with Russia



Rescue workers attend to those injured after they and Syria's opposition activists say dozens were killed when a car bomb went off in a busy market in a rebel-held Syrian town of Azaz along the Turkish border, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says the explosion Saturday was caused by a rigged water or fuel tanker, which explains the large blast and high death toll.

BEIRUT (AP)—Nearly two months into the assault, Turkey has become bogged down in an unexpectedly bloody fight to retake the Islamic State group's last stronghold in northern Syria. It has been forced to pour in troops, take

the lead in the battle from its Syrian allies and reach out to Russia for aerial support.

The fight for al-Bab underscores the precarious path Ankara is treading with its foray in to Syria, aimed against both IS militants and Syrian

Kurdish fighters. The assault on the town had already driven a wedge between Turkey and the United States, and now the realignment toward Moscow—which supports the government in Syria's civil war—further tests An-

kara's alliance both with Washington and with the Syrian opposition.

The battle itself has proven grueling.

Nearly 50 Turkish soldiers have been killed in its Syria operation, most of them since

Compromising material appears frequently in Russian politics

MOSCOW (AP)— Blurry video of highly placed men engaging in sexual acts, audio recordings of influential figures profanely insulting their nominal allies - in Russia these appear enough that a special word has evolved: "kompromat," or "compromising material."

In the wake of unsubstantiated allegations that Russia has gathered kompromat against President-elect Donald Trump, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov brushed them off as an attempt to undermine potentially improved U.S.-Russia ties once Trump takes office.

"The Kremlin does not engage in collecting compromising information," he told reporters on Wednesday.

But such material has shown up in Russia for decades. Recent examples of kompromat often support Kremlin interests or appear via media believed to have close ties to President Vladimir Putin's administration.

Some notable examples:

VICTORIA NULAND

As demonstrations against

Ukraine's Russia-friendly President Viktor Yanukovych spiraled in February 2014, an audio recording emerged apparently of Nuland, an assistant U.S. secretary of state, and U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt discussing which opposition leaders Washington would like to see as prime minister.

The recording's initial release was presented as evidence of open American instigation in the turmoil. But what attracted much of the attention was Nuland's obscene dismissal of the European Union, whose envoys the U.S. regarded as indecisive and slowmoving in the crisis.

The recording was widely believed to have been made by Russia. Nuland herself called it "impressive tradecraft."

MIKHAIL KASYANOV

Kasyanov was Putin's first prime minister before becoming one of the more prominent figures in Russia's beleaguered and fragmented opposition. His party was running in last year's parliamentary election and he also has been seen as a possible dark horse challenger to Putin in the 2018 presidential election.

In March 2016, grainy video was broadcast that appeared to show Kasyanov and a woman identified as an opposition activist having sex and speaking dismissively of other opposition figures. The video appeared on NTV, a state-controlled TV channel noted for especially vehement criticism of the opposition and support for Putin.

BORIS NEMTSOV

Before he was assassinated on a bridge near the Kremlin in 2015, Nemtsov was one of the most determined and charismatic of Putin's opponents. He was a leading figure in the massive anti-Kremlin demonstrations in Moscow in late 2011 following parliamentary elections plagued by allegations of fraud.

The size and persistence of the demonstrations apparently caught officials by surprise and sent them scrambling for ways to tamp them down without mass arrests.

On the eve of one of the planned protests, the website Life News, closely connected with the Kremlin and Russian security services, released recordings of Nemtsov apparently insulting other notable opposition figures. The recordings reinforced the personal and tactical disagreements that have undermined the opposition.

Nemtsov said some of the recordings were manipulated or faked but acknowledged that some were authentic.

YURI SKURATOV

In 1999, Boris Yeltsin was president while Putin headed the FSB security agency, apparently positioning himself to take over from Yeltsin.

Skuratov, at that time Russia's prosecutor-general, had been investigating corruption in the Yeltsin administration; Yeltsin tried to fire him, but the parliament refused.

A videotape appeared on state television of a man resembling Skuratov apparently having sex with prostitutes, prompting parliament to suspend him. Putin publicly identified the man as Skuratov.

Weeks after Putin became acting president on New Year's Eve 1999, the parliament dismissed Skuratov.

the al-Bab assault began in mid-November—including 14 killed in a single day. The militants have dug in, surrounding the town with trenches, lining streets with land mines and carrying out painful ambushes and car bombings against the besieging forces. Each time Turkish-backed Syrian opposition fighters have thrust into the city, they've been driven out. More than 200 civilians are believed to have been killed since the attack began Nov. 13. Mud and cold rain have only made it more of a slog.

"The battle for al-Bab has been mostly about killing civilians and destroying the city, whether by Daesh or the Turks," said Mustafa Sultan, a resident of al-Bab and a media activist who has been covering the fight. He used the Arabic acronym for IS.

"The town is almost half destroyed. Daesh takes cover in hospitals, schools and these end up getting targeted," he said. The Turkish military says it takes great care not to harm civilians, halting operations that could endanger noncombatants.

Capturing al-Bab is essential to Ankara's goals in Syria.

Turkey, which for years supported the Syrian opposition drive to oust President Bashar Assad, has recalibrated its priorities toward fighting Islamic State militants who turned their terror against the Turkish state and thwarting Kurdish aspirations for autonomous rule along Syria's border with Turkey.

WORLD BRIEFS

Top Iraqi commander: Mosul could be liberated in 3 months

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—A top Iraqi commander told The Associated Press that the operation to retake the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group could be complete in three months or less. "It's possible" that Mosul will be liberated in in that time frame, Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghati said in an interview with the AP on Tuesday evening. However, he warned it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of how long the operation will take because it is not a conventional fight. "There are many variables," he said, describing the combat as "guerrilla warfare." On Wednesday, Iraqi forces announced that three more neighborhoods in eastern Mosul had been retaken from IS fighters. Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil of Iraq's special forces estimated about 85 percent of eastern Mosul was now under Iraqi control. The massive offensive involving some 30,000 Iraqi forces was launched in October and Iraqi leaders originally pledged the city would be retaken before 2017.

Dozens killed as fighting rages at Yemen's Red Sea strait

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Heavy fighting continued to rage Wednesday near the strategic Red Sea strait of Bab al-Mandab in western Yemen, leaving dozens dead and wounded, security officials said. Since Monday, fighters aligned with Yemen's internationally recognized President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi have been making advances and seizing more territory

from Yemen's Houthi rebels, the officials said. Warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition provided air cover for Hadi's forces, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The battles are part of the socalled Golden Spear operation launched by the coalition and Hadi's government and aimed at uprooting Houthis and allied forces from the western coast, starting from the strait of Bab al-Mandab and extending to the vital Red Sea ports of Mokha and Hodeida. The coalition accuses Houthis of using these ports to receive supplies of arms and ammunition from Iran.

Mali military: 5 soldiers killed, 3 hurt by roadside bomb

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)-Authorities in Mali say five soldiers were killed and three others wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb. Military spokesman Col. Diarran Kone says the attack took place early Wednesday in central Mali. Another military official who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to journalists said the deaths happened on the road between Diafarabe and Macina. There was no immediately claim of responsibility, though al-Qaida-linked militants regularly stage attacks on the Malian military in that area. A French-led military operation forced jihadists from power in major towns across Mali's north in 2013. Since then, remnants have continued to launch attacks and the violence has moved farther south.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 **21**

Focus



On this Nov. 29, 2016 photo, internally displaced girls in Jeyang village camp, near the China border, join the karate training for self-defense in Kachin state, Myanmar. Forced from their homes and in some cases torn from their families, young girls and women at a refugee camp in Myanmar's Kachin state are studying karate to help protect themselves from a known threat: the country's own military.

JE YANG, Myanmar (AP)—Every afternoon, dozens of teenage girls at the school for displaced children line up on the grounds, dressed in white uniforms with belts of various colors: yellow, blue, white. They kick high and jump with glee before settling into their exercises, shouting in Japanese as they punch into the air.

The reason many of these girls are in this class is sobering: They want protection from their own country's military.

Mostly between 13 and 16, they have lost their homes, and in some cases their families, to the long-running civil war in Myanmar's Kachin state—a war in which soldiers have been repeatedly accused of raping girls and women, but rarely prosecuted. This karate class offers some small sense of power to the vulnerable.

"For all the girls, we teach them how to protect themselves when someone tries to sexually assault them and how to fight back," instructor Hkun Naw said. "Basically teaching the girls to make themselves safe.

"We wanted to make sure all the internally displaced children have the right to do something that gives them joy, and to be confident."

More than 100,000 people in Kachin state, in Myanmar's north, have been forced from their homes by fighting between government troops and ethnic Kachin rebels who have sought greater

Uprooted by war, fearing troops, Myanmar girls learn karate

By ESTHER HTUSAN

autonomy for decades. A 17-year-long cease-fire ended in 2011.

Je Yang is among the most crowded camps, with more than 8,000 people, including 16-year-old Hkawn Ra. She fled fighting in her village of Man Dung while she was at school five years ago, when she was 11. She has not seen her parents since.

She once dreamed of becoming a nurse, but no longer. "Because of the political situation and civil war, I cannot become who I want to be, and I am not angry about it anymore," she said.

Hkawn Ra is, however, learning karate, after hearing about rapes and sexual violence against women in the region. A community-based organization operating under the Kachin Independence Organization has held karate classes in Kachin-controlled areas since the year the cease-fire ended, seeking to teach girls and boys

self-defense and self-confidence.

"They (the military) rape women and that's why I was interested, and decided to learn karate to protect myself at least," Hkawn Ra said.

Women organizations say the military has been long using rape as weapon of war. The Women's League of Burma says it has documented more than 100 cases of rape and sexual violence against ethnic women by the military army since 2010. The government and the military have remained largely silent on the issue.

This fall, Muslim Rohingya and rights groups have said soldiers and police have repeatedly raped members of the ethnic minority in northwestern Rakhine state. Authorities have been conducting sweeps of the region since October, when nine border guards were killed by unknown attackers. The government has

blocked foreign media from the area, but Rohingya who fled to nearby Bangladesh report rapes and murders by security forces, and satellite images back up their claims of villageburning. At a recent press conference, military spokesman Soe Naing Oo denied that soldiers in Rakhine were committing any human-rights violations or sexual violence.

The Kachin Women's Association of Thailand and the Legal Aid Network last year released a report on investigators' lack of progress in the brutal 2015 rape and murder of the two Kachin volunteer teachers. Dozens of soldiers were housed closed to the rape scene, and several left shortly before the bodies were discovered, but no suspects have been identified.

Prosecutions have been few. In 2014, a soldier was sentenced to 7 years in prison for raping a 7-year-old

Kachin girl in northern Shan state. Accused Myanmar soldiers normally face a military tribunal, but in that case lawyers successfully pressed for a civilian trial.

Ethnic minorities overwhelmingly voted for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy last year, helping it replace an elected but military-dominated government. But many are now disappointed with her government's efforts to resolve a host of ethnic conflicts and what they see as the military's impunity.

"Without talking about humanrights violations and ignoring the truth and justice for the victims, there won't be a real peace and national reconciliation in our country," said Julia Marip, secretary of the Women's League of Burma.

With little confidence that soldiers will be held to account for misdeeds, the girls in the karate class hope to at least deter them from committing any to begin with. They compete with each other, and some have dreams of fighting professionally.

"Our instructor said we can go abroad to learn more skills, and I want to go overseas and be a professional fighter," said 14-year-old Nu Ja.

"When they know how to defend themselves," said Hkun Naw, the instructor, "they will be able to protect their families, their people and their country." **22** FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Science & Technology

Facebook takes on a bigger role in journalism

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is launching a journalism project aimed at strengthening its ties with media organizations to help them expand their audiences, come up with new products and generally promote trusted news in today's "posttruth" era.

The project is in its early stages and as such, light on specifics. But the company envisions Facebook engineers working with news organizations to create new ways of telling stories and novel advertising or subscription models, right from the early stages of development.

The company also wants to help promote "news literacy" and support local news.

"It's very early in the process but certainly something we are really excited about,' said Dave Merrell, lead product manager at The Washington Post, which is among the news organizations working with Facebook. "We worked with Facebook on numerous products over the years, but often were not involved in the product development stage."

Instant gratification

"Instant Articles," launched in 2015, the social network hosts and displays pointing users to news websites. Such instant stories load faster on Facebook than those

news items directly instead of stand their browsing habits and direct them to other stories and video. So Facebook plans to start testing a new

facebook

on outside links, and Facebook gives participating publishers a cut of the advertising revenue from Instant Articles.

But publishers also lose some of their ability to connect with their readers, underfeature of Instant Articles that will show readers multiple stories from the same news organization.

As part of that change, Facebook could also improve the way its algorithms recommend other stories—that "people also shared"—to users. Its automated system has sometimes suggested purported news articles that included unverified information or that were only marginally related to the original story.

Facebook grows up

The move suggests Facebook is starting to accept its outsized influence over how people get their news, even if it's not a traditional publisher itself. According to the Pew Research Center, more than 40 percent of American adults get news on Facebook.

And it follows the com-

pany's announcement last month that it is taking new measures to curb the spread of fake and misleading news on its huge and influential network.

The news literacy aspect of the project is relevant to that effort. Facebook says it will work with outside organizations on how to help "people in our community have the information they need to make decisions about which sources to trust." To start, the company is working with the News Literacy Project to produce a series of public service advertisements on the issue.

Zero-emission boat prepares for round-the-world odyssey

PARIS (AP)—The first selfsufficient boat powered only by emission-free energy will start a six-year trip around the world in the spring.

Energy Observer, a former multi-hull race boat converted into a green vessel equipped with solar panels, wind turbines and a hydrogen fuel cell system, will be powered by wind, the sun and self-generated hydrogen.

The 5 million euro (\$5.25 million) boat, which is currently in a shipyard in Saint-Malo, will set sail from the Brittany port and will make its first of 101 stops across 50 countries in Paris as part of a six-year circumnavigation.

"This boat will demonstrate that there are many solutions for energetic transition," said

environmentalist Nicolas Hulot, who attended the project presentation on Wednesday at the UNESCO headquarters. "All solutions are within nature."

Designed in 1983 under the supervision of Mike Birch, the boat enjoyed a successful career in open-sea sailing races, including winning the Jules Verne Trophy in 1994, with

Peter Blake at the helm. The Energy Observer project was conceived in 2015 by skippers Frederic Dahirel and Victorien Erussard, with scuba diver and filmmaker Jerome Delafosse also behind the project.

"I'm passionate about new technologies," Erussard said. "Building a self-sufficient boat could have seemed utopian, but this is going to be an incredible vessel. It's very promising for the future."

The technology fitted to the 30.5-meter (100-foot) boat, which is also equipped with a kite sail, will enable the production of hydrogen through electrolysis process.

"We bank on the diversity of renewable energies," Essuard said. "And if there is no sun or wind, or at night, we have the option to draw in our hydrogen reservoirs. We will produce this hydrogen in a decarbonized manner through electrolysis of the sea water."

According to Florence

Lambert, the director of the CEA Liten research institute which devised the boat's energy system, Energy Observer is a good example of what energy networks will look like in the near future, with its well balanced mix of renewable energies and hydrogen storage system.

"We are not talking about the delirium of an explorer or a scientific," she said, adding that the prospects for hydrogen-powered transport look bright.

Optical devices

that would connect

light-carrying fibers and

electronic components

TECH Q&A

How to get email from an upgraded Outlook.com

By STEVE ALEXANDER STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I'm confused about Microsoft emails that tell me to reconnect my Outlook 2013 PC program in order to continue getting mail via their **Outlook.com website. It said** I needed to create a new profile. What is this about?

A: Microsoft has upgraded its email system, which you access through the Outlook. com website. To continue receiving and sending email, you need to reconnect your PC's Outlook 2013 program to the website. That will provide a more reliable link to the upgraded mail system.

To reconnect, you will need to change your Outlook 2013 profile, which is a list containing your name, email address and password. To create a new profile, click on "file" at the top of the screen. In the resulting "account information" list, choose "add account." Enter your name, email address and password, click "next," then click "finish." (This also works for Outlook 2016.)

To delete the old profile, click "file," and in the "account information" list click on "account settings." In the drop-down box, click "account settings" again. The old and new accounts will appear. The one you want to delete includes the phrase "Exchange ActiveSync."

Highlight the new account, and click on "set as default." Then highlight the old account, and click on "remove." When asked if you want to continue, click "yes." Close Outlook 2013 and reopen it.

Many readers said that Windows Update no longer works properly for Windows 7 PCs, and they are right. (Among those bringing it to my attention were Bill Slobotski of Roseville, Minn., John Wells of Minneapolis, Ronald Iannelli of Breezy Point, Minn., Anthony Williams of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Danny Williamson of Baton Rouge, La.)

Microsoft devised a fix by manually downloading two important files from the Microsoft Update Catalog (see tinyurl.com/znbu9mm scroll down to "Do this:"). Note: The fix only works if you use the internet Explorer browser to download the files.

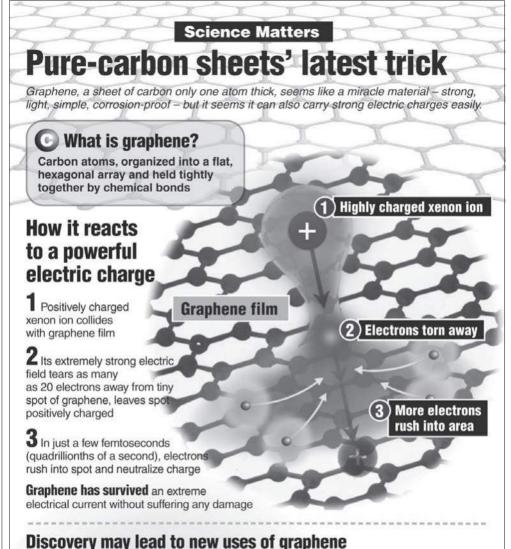
Once corrected, Windows 7 owners will have a choice of how to receive future updates: Let Windows Update run automatically, or ask Update to see what's available.

Q: I updated my Windows 7 PC to Windows 10. But because I've bought an Apple Mac, I want to clean up the PC and give it away. If I restore the PC to its original settings, will it go back to Windows 7 or continue on Windows 10? A: If you upgraded to Windows 10 more than a month ago, Windows 7 and its original settings have been permanently deleted from your PC. If it has been less than a month, you can revert to Windows 7 from backup files stored on your hard disk (see tinyurl. com/pta5nw2).

For you, Windows 10 is the best option. That's because its "reset" feature will return the PC to its default Windows 10 settings while erasing all PC data and non-Windows programs. Obviously, you will want to back up all your data first so you can move it to your Mac.

For directions on resetting your PC, go to tinyurl. com/hvdghql. When you get to step five, choose "remove everything."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech O&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Ultra-fast electronics

that could react almost

in charge (digital data)

Source: Fritz Aumayr of Institute of Applied Physics, Technical University Vienna; Lawrence Berkeley

instantly to changes

National Laboratory Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 **23** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Illinois teen rescued after locking self in shuttered prison

JOLIET, III. (AP)—A teenage girl who slipped into an abandoned Illinois prison for an urban adventure ended up serving a short sentence when she accidentally locked herself inside a cell. Illinois State Police say two teenage girls entered the Joliet Correctional Center through a hole in its fence Monday. Joliet Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Stromberg says the teens were exploring the suburban Chicago prison that's been closed since 2002 when one of them locked herself inside a cell. The other girl got firefighters to the site, and they used a sledgehammer to break through a brick wall and free her companion. Stromberg tells The Herald-News that she spent 45 minutes in the cell. State Police say the teens will face trespassing charges.

Cop gets surgeon, liver to emergency transplant after crash

DENVER, Pa. (AP)—A police officer responding to a crash wound up driving a surgeon, an assistant and a donated liver to a Philadelphia hospital for an emergency transplant. East Cocalico Township police Sgt. Darrick Keppley says he came upon a disabled vehicle Saturday afternoon that had skidded off the icy road. The team was transporting a liver from York to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where a patient already was in the operating room. Keppley says he offered to help. The doctor and assistant piled into his vehicle, he switched on his lights and sirens and navigated the snowy 60 miles east to Philadelphia. Keppley says he was hoping to get a cheesesteak but had to get back to work. The surgeon told the York Daily Record the transplant went "very, very well."

German police called over armed passenger's 'intimate shave'

BERLIN (AP)—German media say a train conductor called police after spotting a naked man with a knife in one of the train's restrooms, where officers found something hairy going on. Public broadcaster ZDF reported Tuesday that the 22-year-old man was engaged in an "intimate shave" when police intervened at Duesseldorf's main train station. A police spokeswoman confirmed the report to German news agency dpa, saying the man had been "quite annoyed" by the interruption and only dressed himself reluctantly. While shaving

in train restrooms isn't illegal, the man failed to produce a valid ticket and was therefore removed. Dpa quoted police saying the man told officers he elected to groom himself on the train because he wasn't welcome at home.

Sheriff: Misdirected text invites deputy to meth delivery

PIERRE PART, La. (AP)— Authorities in Louisiana have arrested a man who they say accidentally texted a deputy to arrange a drug sale. Assumption Parish Sheriff Leland Falcon tells local media the deputy received the misdirected text message Friday from 39-yearold Dwayne Paul Herbert of Pierre Part, arranging to deliver crystal methamphetamine. The officer agreed, then mobilized the Narcotics Division. The sheriff says Herbert showed up carrying crystal meth and two firearms and now faces charges of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in the presence of a controlled substance and two counts of resisting an officer. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

Houston-area man says deputies mistook cat litter for meth

CYPRESS, Texas (AP)—A Houston-area man says sheriff's deputies conducted faulty field tests on cat litter they found in his vehicle, which they believed was methamphetamine. Ross Lebeau was charged with possession of a controlled substance following the Dec. 5 traffic stop, but court documents show the case was dismissed last week because the material was not an illicit substance. Lebeau told the Houston Chronicle for a story this week that his father had placed the cat litter in the sock as a way to absorb moisture and keep the car's windows from fogging. The Harris County sheriff's office says deputies smelled marijuana coming from the car and conducted a search. Officials say marijuana was found in the console and Lebeau never identified what was in the sock.

No way to car-pool: SUV runs through wall into swimming pool

APEX, N.C. (AP)—You could say a North Carolina woman went car-pooling: Police say she accidentally drove her SUV through her garage and landed in the middle of her backyard swimming pool. Local news outlets report that police in Apex say it happened Sunday night. No one was hurt. Police spokesman

Capt. Blair Myhand says the woman was returning home when her vehicle skidded on a patch of ice as she pulled into her driveway. The SUV crashed through the back of her garage, crossed the rear deck of the home and dropped into the middle of the aboveground pool without knocking down the pool's sides. Crews worked to repair the garage wall on Monday. Myhand says based on the damage, it's likely the woman hit the gas instead of the brake accidentally.

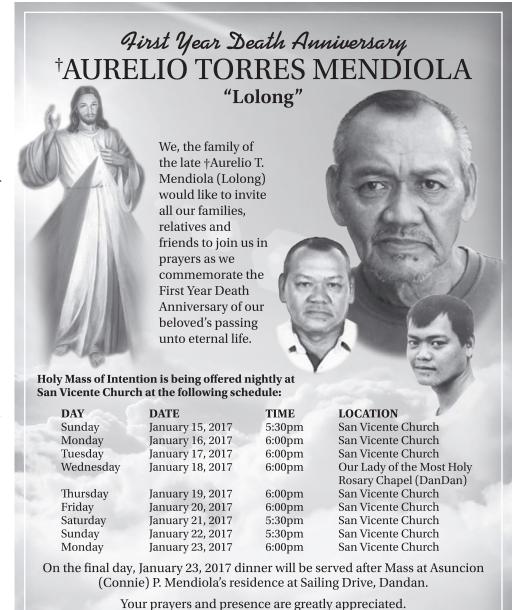
Team can't reach dog on snowy cliff; it sniffs out solution

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— A search and rescue team hiked up a steep, snowy Utah mountain to try to rescue a dog that was stuck on a narrow ledge above a 50-foot cliff. The Utah County Sheriff's Office posted a video Monday showing highlights of the Friday operation, but it ended without the animal getting off the mountain near Provo. A rescuer rappelled down to try to lure the dog named Mary with food. It didn't work because Mary became skittish every time he got close. The team called off the rescue at nightfall and left her with food and hand warmers. The saga had a happy ending the next day when her owners called to say Mary somehow made it down the mountain alone. She had cuts to her paws but was OK.

Most charges dropped vs. man in bunny suit, air horn case

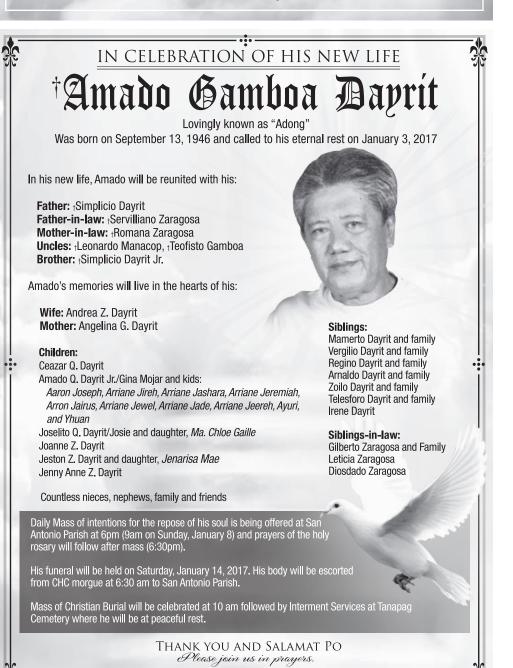
HOPATCONG, N.J. (AP)— Prosecutors have dropped most charges against two New Jersey brothers stemming from an incident in which one of them wore a bunny costume and repeatedly blew an air horn inside a police station. The New Jersey Herald reports the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office will not pursue charges of harassment, obstruction, and resisting arrest against Kevin Hemmerich because of insufficient evidence. Similar charges were also dismissed against Jason Hemmerich. Prosecutors are still charging Kevin Hemmerich with disorderly conduct. On Nov. 17, Kevin Hemmerich, accompanied by his brother, entered the Hopatcong Police Department lobby to turn himself in for an outstanding warrant. Kevin Hemmerich was dressed in a bunny costume and repeatedly blew the air horn. A police officer slapped Kevin Hemmerich after asking him why he was blowing the horn. The officer

was charged with assault.



Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family



THE FAMILY

24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

What's the story with Ben Affleck? 'Live by Night,' he hopes

NEW YORK (AP)—When Ben Affleck's "Argo" won best picture four years ago, it was an unquestionable high point in a career that has seesawed with ups and downs. As he, clutching the Oscar, spoke emotionally of "getting back up" after being knocked down, Affleck seemed to be leaving the turbulence behind.

But the roller coaster soon enough started rolling again. Though many expected him to continue on the path of prestige filmmaker, he, with just a touch of fanfare, took on the high-pressure role of Batman, a bid to secure his place on the A-list and wow his four-yearold son. And after splitting with his wife, Jennifer Garner, Affleck again found himself a tabloid regular.

"This business tends to exaggerate highs and lows," Affleck said in an interview over coffee at a Manhattan restaurant overlooking Central Park. "I've had legitimate lows, movies I didn't like, and I'm very proud of the movies I directed and so on. But you become a cast member in a soap opera that you're not writing. You get the script every day and you find out what your role is that day."

Now, Affleck is hoping to flip the script again. He's releasing his directorial followup to "Argo," an adaption of Dennis Lehane's crime novel "Live By Night." It's the story of a Prohibition era gangster (Affleck) who decamps from Boston to Tampa's Ybor City to create a rum-running empire. It's his fourth film as a director and second adaptation of Lehane, whose "Gone Baby Gone" was his directorial debut in 2007.

"When I had the success of 'Argo,' I kind of got to leverage that," said Affleck, who was sent the book by Leonardo DiCaprio. "It was sort of pick what you want to do and this is what I wanted to do. I wanted to make a classic Warners picture."

It's easily Affleck's most ambitious film yet, one he grants he couldn't have tack- claim of his career for "Manled earlier. It has lavish period sets and costumes, a lengthy

car chase and an epic sweep compelled by a clash of American ideals that resonates particularly post-election. He just hopes his side job in Warner Bros.' DC Comics universe doesn't overshadow it.

"They're saying you have to have x, y and z to make money in the movie business," Affleck said. "You've got to have somebody wearing a cape, for example. While I have nothing against movies with people with capes on --I'm a big fan of capes -- I don't think we should be limited to that genre."

Affleck and his family were preparing to soon head to Montana to celebrate Christmas with his brother, Casey, and his family. It's been an especially busy year for both. Casey is enjoying the most ac-



Affleck

chester by the Sea," while Ben has run up more than \$1.7 bil-

lion in box office, starring in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," making a cameo in "Suicide Squad" and top-lining the bean-counter thriller "The Accountant."

But concern that Affleck's caped duties might overshadow "Live By Night" was especially acute on a recent December afternoon. He had just conducted a wideranging Times Talk about his career, but the headlinegrabbing takeaway was that he said wouldn't direct the planned stand-alone "Batman" film until the script was good enough.

"That generated 30 stories about 'Ben Affleck's taking his time with Batman.' Of course I am!" Affleck said incredulously. "You take your time with any movie. It's no different than anything else but because it's 'Batman' and it has that level of attention on the Internet. What could be less newsworthy than a person saying they want to have a good script for their movie? We're making the movie. We're going ahead with it. We're just working on the script to make it good. It's like the most famous unmade movie in history."

"We also want good actors. We want good stages," he said. "It boggles the mind."

After the critical lashing of "Batman v Superman" and "Suicide Squad," Affleck would have good reason to emphasize the script stage of his "Batman" film, which he calls an "exhilarating" challenge, "like jumping out of an airplane." He has written or co-written all his films except "Argo," and, of course, first won an Oscar for penning "Good Will Hunting" with Matt Damon.

Lehane, the celebrated crime noir novelist, said Affleck is orderly, "no-muss, no-fuss" in talking over the screenplays of "Gone Girl" and "Live by Night'-even if there were understandable delays.

"I think he thought, 'I'm just going to go direct this' (after 'Argo') and then he got the offer to do 'Gone Girl," Lehane said. "And then he was like. 'OK. now I'm ready to direct this.' And then he got the offer to do Batman. As he

said to me at the time, in the grandest understatement, 'A guy's got to eat.""

The reviews for "Live By Night" haven't been great, and it won't reach the Oscar heights of "Argo." But after the film's first, more traditional crime-thriller chapter, it becomes a timely collision between diverging visions of America: multiculturalism squares off with the KKK and religious zealotry.

"Some of those conflicts, it turns out, are still really relevant today," Affleck said. "In fact, I had no idea a story about immigrants and the Klu Klux Klan and morality would feel so current today."

Whether or not "Live by Night" succeeds, Affleck is at peace with the undulations of his Hollywood career.

"I do look at the careers of other directors, guys like John Huston, and see how they had big hits and big misses and lived big lives. That's OK with me as a model," Affleck said. "I don't mind the high stakes gambling nature of this profession. If it's a hit, you're a hit, and if it's a bomb, you're a bomb. That's just the way things go. There's something uniquely American about that."

Ben Affleck braces for 'entertaining' Trump presidency

LONDON (AP)—Ben Affleck is an optimist. The Hollywood star thinks the next four years will at least be interesting after watching President-elect Donald Trump's first press conference.

"I didn't get to watch the entire news conference although what I did see of it, I was quite entertained by. I think it will be an entertaining four years," he said at the London premiere of his latest directorial effort "Live by Night" Wednesday.

Actor Chris Messina, who joined Affleck and costar Sienna Miller on the red carpet, didn't seem as upbeat as Affleck.

"I think we're all a little scared and we're going to take deep breaths. Meryl Streep said it best the other night at the Golden Globes. I don't think anyone can be any

more eloquent as her. Yeah, I was sad today. Obama said goodbye. We're going to miss him," Messina said.

Affleck was also somewhat miffed at Trump's Twitter reaction to Streep's Golden Globes speech. The actress made the Republican a big topic of her speech without naming him directly and Trump fired back calling her "one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood."

Affleck disagreed with the sentiment.

"If you think Meryl Streep is an overrated actress, you're probably the least qualified person to comment on acting. She's, if nothing else the world's greatest actor," he said.

"Live by Night" is Affleck's fourth feature as a director. He produced the film and also wrote the screenplay, based

on a Dennis Lehane novel by the same name about a group of gangsters in Prohibitionera Boston. Affleck took on the lead role of Joe Coughlin, the son of a police captain, who forges his way into the world of crime.

Affleck said there was one difficult aspect to directing himself: Steamy bedroom scenes didn't quite work out as well as he'd hoped.

"I just try to make myself look as good as possible. I just think 'What's the most flattering sexual aspect of myself?' and I try to put that in the movie," he joked.

"And you know what? I had to cut it out, it was that depressing. I looked like a sick polar bear."

The film also stars Zoe Saldana, Elle Fanning, Chris Cooper and Brendan Gleeson. Jane Fonda says people should not be fooled by Trudeau **TORONTO** (AP)—Actress

Jane Fonda said Wednesday that people should not be

fooled by "goodliberals' looking like Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who "disappointed" her by approving pipelines from the Alberta oil sands.

Fonda Fonda said after touring the oil sands area that environmentalists everywhere were impressed by Trudeau at the Paris climate conference in

'We all thought, well, cool guy," Fonda said. "What a disappointment...

"He talked so beautifully of needing to meet the re-

> quirements of the climate treaty and respect and hold to the treaties with indigenous people. Such a heroic stance he took there, and yet he has betrayed every one of the things he

committed to in Paris."

Fonda, on a trip organized by Greenpeace, is calling for a stop to pipelines and oil sands development.

"I guess the lesson is we shouldn't be fooled by goodlooking liberals no matter how well-spoken they are," Fonda said.

Last year, Trudeau approved Kinder Morgan's plans to triple the capacity of the Trans Mountain pipeline from Alberta to the Pacific Coast, and he approved replacing Enbridge's Line 3 to Wisconsin.

But he also pushed ahead with a national carbon price and he rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway project to northwest British Columbia, which would pass through the Great Bear Rainforest as his Liberal Party government tries to balance the oil industry's

desire to tap new markets in Asia against the concerns of environmentalists.

Fonda, a 79-year-old political activist and two-time Oscar winner for best actress, is the latest celebrity to visit and express concerns about the Alberta oil sands. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio and Hollywood film director James Cameron have also visited.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said Fonda is using her celebrity to promote illinformed generalizations.

Notley said Fonda should not lecture oil workers about getting jobs elsewhere and added that it was "super tone deaf' for the actress to visit Fort McMurray, Alberta, so soon after devastating wildfires that destroyed homes and buildings.

Notley, who leads the leftleaning New Democratic party, also said Alberta has a plan that makes the province a climate leader in North America. Notley said provincial officials were to have met with Fonda to explain the government's plans but it didn't happen.

"Dining out on your celebrity is something that someone ought to pair with knowledge and research and she failed to do that," Notley said.

Kardashian robbery probe: Driver, 2 others freed; DNA found

PARIS (AP)—French investigators have released a chauffeur for Kim Kardashian West and two other people in their probe into the robbery of more than \$10 million worth of jewelry from the star's Paris apartment in October.

The driver's brother and 13 others, including two women, remained in custody Wednesday night after a round of arrests this week, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

Authorities are focusing on the possibility that the robbery

was an inside job. The Paris prosecutor's office said chauffeur Michael Madar, 40, was among three people released overnight, including a woman. Madar is believed to have driven Kardashian the night of the robbery.

Madar and his brother Gary Madar, 27, work for the same car service company and were among those arrested Monday.

The younger Madar and four other people still in custody are suspected of a direct role in the robbery, the office said. Inves-

tigators have also found the DNA of one suspect, Aomar Ait Khedache, a 60-year-old Algeria-born French citizen, at the scene, it added.

The suspects arrested Monday ranged in age from 23 to 72 and included several people known for prior robberies and other crimes, according to a police document seen by The Associated Press.

A French investigating judge may travel to the United States to speak with Kardashian West.

The jewels have not been

recovered. In neighboring Belgium, the Antwerp prosecutor's office would not comment Wednesday on reports that the stolen goods might have been smuggled to Antwerp, a major jewel trading center.

Thieves are believed to have forced their way into the private apartment where Kardashian West was staying during Paris Fashion Week, tied her up and stole the jewelry.

Kardashian West has not commented publicly since Monday's arrests.

Surviving Carpenters member sues over royalties

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Grammy winner Richard Carpenter sued Universal Music Group on Wednesday for mil-

lions in royalties he contends are owed from licensing Carpenters songs for online services such as Apple's iTunes. Carpenter's lawsuit seeks more than \$2 million in royalties and is also being filed on behalf of the estate of his sis-

Carpenter's lawsuit seeks ter, Karen Carpenter, who died ore than \$2 million in royalin 1983.

The Carpenters won three Grammy Awards in 1970 and

was being made, but wasn't

1971, including for their song "Close to You."

The suit, which also names Universal subsidiary A&M Records, is one of a number of lawsuits filed after a 2010 appellate court ruled in a case involving Eminem's record label that music downloads from services such as iTunes should result in higher payments to artists. That ruling called for artists to receive substantially higher royalty payments for digital downloads of their music than they do when a physical recording is sold.

Carpenter says he has been unable to resolve the dispute without suing. "The Carpenters recordings are among the best sellers in the history of popular music and after 48 years continue to contrib-

ute a substantial amount to UMG/A&M's annual bottom line," he wrote in a statement. "It seems only fair that these companies account fairly to my sister's estate and to me."

An email message to Universal Music Group was not immediately returned.

Carpenter has hired attorney Larry Iser, who has represented numerous artists in disputes over licensing and use of their music.

"It is unfortunate that the Carpenters were forced to file this lawsuit primarily over an issue that has already been resolved by the courts—but which these record companies still refuse to acknowledge—that digital downloads occur pursuant to license and are not sales of records," Iser said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Scientists claim new gibbon species _ name it Skywalker

LONDON (AP)—Researchers in China claim they have identified a new species of gibbon in the remote forests along its border with Burma—and have named it after Star Wars character Luke Skywalker. Scientists studying hoolock gibbons on China's Mount Gaoligong concluded there were two, not one, species based on both the primate's distinctive brow and a genetic analysis. The study was published in the American Journal of Primatology. The proposed new species is called the Skywalker hoolock gibbon or Gaoligong hoolock gibbon. The Chinese characters of its scientific name mean "Heaven's movement." Outside experts are split on whether it's enough to justify new species status. Actor Mark Hamill, who played Skywalker in the film, tweeted: "So proud of this! First the Pez dispenser, then the Underoos & U.S. postage stamp... now this!"

Michael Keaton apologizes for 'Hidden Fences' flub at Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Keaton says anyone who reads something discriminatory into his Golden Globes garble of "Hidden Fences" is "extraordinarily incorrect." "I mean, almost like calling Al Gore a climate change denier," Keaton told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Keaton said he

"made a mistake reading the teleprompter and the cue cards" when he conflated the titles of "Hidden Figures" and "Fences" at the awards ceremony Sunday. Both films have predominantly black casts. Keaton said Wednesday that he is sorry for the error and feels especially bad for the makers of "Hidden Figures" for the flub that diminished the title's recognition at the show, where he introduced supporting actress nominee Octavia Spencer. "The Founder" star said he's a longtime civil rights supporter who taught his son the importance of being socially conscious.

Azoff's company signs Prince estate for performing rights

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince's estate has signed a deal with Global Music Rights, founded by entertainment industry powerhouse Irving Azoff, to represent songs written by the icon. Prince was signed to performing rights company ASCAP until 2014. His catalog includes hits like "Purple Rain," "When Doves Cry" and "1999." GMR announced Wednesday that it will represent released and unreleased Prince songs worldwide. GMR was founded by Randy Grimmett and Azoff, who manages John Mayer, Bon Jovi, the Eagles, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani and other acts. Performing rights organizations, unlike publishing companies, license songs for use in malls, restaurants and other public places. Prince died last April.

Ex-TV show contestant's video shows him rescuing choking man

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)— A contestant on the TV reality show "American Ninja Warrior" put some different skills to use when he rescued a motorist who was choking alongside a New York street. Exterminator Pavel Fesyuk says he was driving a Town and Country Pest Solutions vehicle with his cellphone camera recording video from the dashboard when he spotted a man bent over the trunk of his car Tuesday on a Rochester street. The video shows Fesyuk approaching the man, who motions for Fesyuk to pat his back. Fesyuk patted the man's back, but when that didn't help, he got behind the man and performed the Heimlich maneuver. Fesyuk says the man then swallowed whatever was blocking his air passage. The video shows both men heading to their vehicles before driving away.

Natalie Portman says co-star Kutcher paid 3 times as much

Natalie Portman says Ashton Kutcher was paid three times as much as her for co-starring in 2011's "No Strings Attached." Portman tells Marie Claire she knew about the pay difference at the time the film as miffed as she should have been. She tells the magazine, "we get paid a lot, so it's hard to complain, but the disparity is crazy." The 35-year-old says she doesn't "think women and men are more or less capable. We just have a clear issue with women not having opportunities." She says women need to "be part of the solution, not perpetuating the problem." Kutcher posted the story about Portman's claim on his Twitter page, writing, "So proud of Natalie and all women who stand up for closing the gender pay gap!" (AP)

Coen brothers to make their first TV series

NEW YORK (AP)—The Coen brothers will make their first TV show, a miniseries titled "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs." Joel and Ethan Coen will write and direct the project, set in the Old West, Annapurna Television announced late Tuesday. The production company said it plans to make "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" with "an innovative television and theatrical integrated approach." Though the Coens' film "Fargo" was adapted into an FX series, the filmmaking brothers had no involvement in that show. They have previously voiced disinterest in television. In 2015 at the Cannes Film Festival, Ethan said he hadn't watched a TV show "in decades." "It's not that I don't like TV," he said. "It's alien to me."

Lithuanian TV apologizes for Hitler gestures by actress

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—Lithuania's public television apologized Wednesday for a live show in which a popular actress made gestures to represent Adolf Hitler's moustache while raising her arm in a Nazi-style salute.

Virginija Buneviciute, a spokeswoman for Lithuanian National Radio and Television LRT, told The Associated Press the contract with the production company behind the popular "Guess the Melody" show was immediately terminated.

During Friday's contest, which actress Asta Baukute was about to win, she jumped off her seat when recognizing a melody by a Lithuanian composer of Jewish heritage. She then made the gestures and yelled "Jew, Jew, Jew" in

Lithuanian

Hours after the show was aired, LRT's deputy manager Rimvydas Paleckis said on the channel's Facebook page he was shocked, adding "this is in no way compatible with our values."

"The show is closed," he added.

Buneviciute said in an email: "As a public broad-caster, we stick to the policy of non-censorship, yet I can hardly imagine a situation (in which) she would be invited to one of our programs now."

Local media said Baukute, a former lawmaker with a populist party in Lithuania, later apologized and said she didn't want to hurt anyone. She was not immediately available for comments.

High school friend turned enemy continues her attacks

EAR ABBY: I need your help in dealing with an old "frenemy." "Jenny" and I were friends in high school, but she constantly berated me and accused me of taking advantage of her. She would make herself feel better by putting me down.

After she went away to college, she got pregnant by a non-boyfriend. When she had an abortion, she swore me to secrecy because she didn't tell the father. Shortly thereafter, he came to me and tricked me into telling him. To this day, Jenny still blames me and says I was out to get her and ruin her life.

Jenny spread rumors about me around our group of friends, on the internet, and told my mom horrible lies about me. She even threatened a lawsuit. Ten years later, she still pops up out of the blue to attack me. A year ago, she sent me a message saying she wished I had died in a tornado that struck my area. She sends taunts about an old boyfriend of mine who got married and had a kid

I never respond because that's what she wants. She pops up at the worst times and makes me feel worse. How should I deal with her?

AT A BOILING POINT IN TENNESSEE

DEAR BOILING: Continue to ignore this troubled woman. Block her anywhere you can, and delete any messages that leak through so you won't have to see them. If you have mutual friends who don't know the whole story, you should have enlightened them years ago—and the same goes for your mother.

Jenny appears to have serious issues. She isn't a "frenemy." She is strictly bad news, so recognize it and move on.

DEAR ABBY: While preparing a letter at work, I noticed that it was going to be mailed to a married lesbian couple. Typically, the correct way to address an envelope to a woman would be to Ms., Miss or Mrs. and to a male it's either Mr. or Master, depending upon his age.

What's the proper way to address a gay couple? Is M/M still used in place of Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs.?

PROPER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR PROPER: According to Steven Petrow's "Complete Gay and Lesbian Manners," the correct way to address the envelopes of married gay and lesbian couples should be (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Bradley Burch and Mr. Mark Foster
Ms. Cecelia Carter and Ms. Diane Grant
Or, if the couple shares the same last name:
Mr. Bradley and Mr. Mark Burch
Ms. Cecelia and Ms. Diane Carter

DEAR ABBY: Now that I'm older, I often find it hard to remember all the names and amounts of my prescriptions when I visit my various doctors. To help myself, I now carry in my wallet a small copy of a spreadsheet listing all my

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



medication information. That way, I can give accurate details to the physician.

I'd like to pass my solution on to other readers who may have the same need to be precise and up-to-date when visiting the doctor.

IN GOOD HEALTH IN AUSTIN

DEAR IN GOOD HEALTH: That's a suggestion worth sharing. And while you are at it, you should also list for your doctor any vitamins, supplements and over-the-counter meds you take on a regular basis. This information can also be stored in your smartphone, if you have one.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

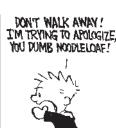
26 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes









By Bill Waterson

Garfield_®







By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

HI, DAD, I'VE GOT A SHELF

THAT NEEDS FIXING CAN I BORROW YOUR DRILL? !-



5-W6@



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

41 Bottle

47 Mafia

48 Small

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By Eugene Sheffer

23 "As You

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36 Always

37 Spirited

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liam Hemsworth, 27; Orlando Bloom, 40; Patrick Dempsey, 51; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 56.

Happy Birthday: Confusion regarding partnerships will surface if you neglect to communicate in detail. Do not leave room for others to make assumptions or to doubt or criticize what you do. A practical, efficient approach will break down negativity and interference. Rely on what you know and have experienced in the past. Simplicity, preparation and organization will lead to victory. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 22, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider what will bring you the highest return. Networking with your peers or holding a meeting that allows you to present what you have to offer will lead to greater options, but not necessarily the deal you want. Time is on your side. **000000**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional issues will surface at home if you neglect an important relationship. It's fine to help others, but make sure you take care of your personal interests first. A meeting, interview or in-

vestment will lead to financial gain. •• GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make special plans with the youngsters or elders in your family. The gratitude gained will be well worth any inconvenience. You'll gain insights from the observations of those looking at your current personal or professional situation from a distance. OOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your interests with someone who enjoys the same things as you. Forming a partnership or working toward a common goal will bring you one step closer to getting what you want. A simple idea or plan will turn into something special.

ed to sensitive issues will flare up. Listen to advice, but do what you feel will defuse matters diplomatically. Change can be good if you go about it the right way. Patience and paying attention to detail will pay off. OOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change in the way or where you live will encourage you to lower your overhead. Living

within your means will ease your stress and encourage personal alterations to your lifestyle. A creative idea will encourage a joint venture. Love is highlighted. OOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more time into important relationships. Make plans to engage in functions that can make a positive difference to your community or environment. Make choices based on what you want to see happen, not what someone else

wants. 🛇 🌣 😂 SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep an open mind when dealing with emotional matters that have the potential to ruin

your day. Stay focused on creative endeavors and improvements at home or work that will make your life easier. Self-reflection is favored. 🗪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A personal investment will pay off. Purchasing a home or something with the potential to grow in value is favored. Relying on secondhand information will be costly. Do your own

research and you will get the best deal.

EUGENIA LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions relat-

> THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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be afraid to do things differently. You'll surprise someone with your insight. Pay close attention to your relationships. A thoughtful gesture will bring a favorable response and an offer that will help you excel. Personal improve-

ments will lead to compliments. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put in a full day and you will accomplish what you set out to do. The personal changes you make will have an impact on the way others perceive you. Put your own unique spin on what-

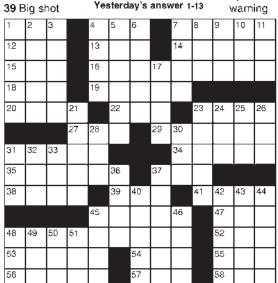
ever you pursue. 🗪 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let an emotional incident set you back. Stay focused on what and who is important to you, and you will avoid getting into a no-win

plans you have. OOOOO Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, hardworking and astute. You are passionate and resourceful.

situation that will ruin your mood as well as any

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

48 Tic- --toe 49 Oklahoma city 50 "There's — in team!" 51 Spike's



STUMPED?

or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King. Features service, NYC.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1/13

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer									
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Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each latter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD. GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCHES Solution: 11 letter

TAIINAITROPARAP EKRPRDSTNIASLLA LAACODEMETRI OSR PTHLHKSEADARCJT OHCOEDSORIKUAEO NIOTL XIIMCLOTRK LIOYAOPIEIHUL TTASNSTNCESVESA NHGGPIERDEIADAS AYEYELIRSSRL T M M N ® O R H T N I E A E A SNEKTARIOSIALMG N R E B M E 🕅 G D L O T A I N OLNRETSAEOAPYHI CKATHOLIKONSACS

@ 2017 Andrews Voldee - www.wonderword.com - Download the Wonderword Game And I Akathist Hymn. Alexandria, All Saints. Aposties, Archdiocese Artoklasia, Cathedral, Chime. Constantinople. Creed Demetrios, Eastern, Episkopi, George, Gerasimos, Holy Trinity, Jerusalem, Katholikon, Mary, Megalochari, Member, Nektarios, Nicholas, Paraklesis, Paraportiani, Saviour, Sing, Spyridor Yesterday's Answer: Chic

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 Full time with flexible working hours
 Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(3) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

- Qualifications:
 At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
 Full time with flexible working hours

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: POSITION: Kids College Instructor January 9, 2017 CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017 Negotiable SALARY:

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years experience in instructional activities or other related field preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017 POSITION: Lifeguard CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Five (5) positions are currently available.

SALARY:

\$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

advice on CW-1 cap min

CUC: Gulick,

POSITION: OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017 Housekeeping Attendant CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017 SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. Three (3) positions are currently available for the housekeeping attendant.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017 POSITION: Cook \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017 SALARY:

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of formal training/education in culinary arts preferred. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Three (3) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: POSITION: January 9, 2017 CLOSE DATE: SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour January 23, 2017

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of formal training and/or experience in bakery preferred. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. One (1) position is currently available.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office. For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 575/576/266.



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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Broncos hire Vance Joseph as their head coach



Colo. (AP)—A runner-up years ago, Vance Joseph is John El-

way's pick this time around.

"It's official. Excited to announce Vance Joseph as head coach of the Denver Broncos!" Elway tweeted Wednesday afternoon.

The 44-year-old ex-Colorado quarterback built a reputation as one of the league's best secondary coaches as he worked his way through the ranks in San Francisco, Houston and Cincinnati before serving as Dolphins defensive coordinator last season and helping Miami end an eightyear playoff drought.

"Becoming head coach of the Denver Broncos is a dream job for many reasons," Joseph said in a statement. "The Broncos have an unbelievable winning tradition and great fan support. But what makes this even more special is it's a place that's ready to win.

"This is not a rebuilding situation - it's a reboot. There is a culture of winning here, and the standards around here won't change. Those are to win championships."

Joseph, who will be formally introduced as the team's 16th head coach on Thursday, impressed Elway in 2015 when Gary Kubiak got the job and the Broncos even tried to hire him as their defensive coordinator, a move the Bengals blocked. So, he stayed in Cincinnati for another year as secondary



In this Jan. 28, 2016, file photo, Miami Dolphins defensive coordinator Vance Joseph responds to a question during a news conference, in Davie, Fla.

coach before joining Adam Gase's staff in Miami.

Kubiak, 55, stepped down over health concerns last week, capping a tumultuous season by the Broncos (9-7), who missed the playoffs a year after winning the Super Bowl.

Elway also interviewed Chiefs special teams coach Dave Toub and Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan over the weekend. Joseph flew to Denver on Tuesday following Miami's wild-card loss at Pittsburgh.

Joseph also had interviews lined up with the Chargers

on Wednesday, the 49ers on Thursday and the Rams on Friday. But he canceled his California trip after his meeting with Elway, which was followed by dinner at Elway's signature steakhouse.

He returned to Broncos headquarters Wednesday morning to negotiate a fouryear contract.

Although the Dolphins ranked ahead of only the Colts, Browns and 49ers in yards allowed in 2016, Joseph took his takeaway touch to Miami, where the Dolphins doubled their forced fumbles

from 2015 and Ndamukong Suh and Cameron Wake enjoyed resurgent seasons.

"He took so much off my plate I never had to worry about anything with the defense," Gase said. "He really did a great job with all those guys in that room. He did a great job at directing those guys and he made my life a lot easier than probably what it could have been. There was a big trust factor there with me."

Gase lauded Joseph's management style in saying he's ready to run his own team.

"He brings a leadership quality that you really love about him. He has such a great personality and such a strong personality," Gase said. "He has that ... alpha-type personality where he demands a lot from players and they give him everything they have."

Denver was widely considered the most desirable of the half-dozen head coach openings because of its talented roster, championship culture, front-office acumen, long-admired ownership and fervent fan base.

Joseph also steps into a pressure cooker that chased away both Kubiak and his predecessor, John Fox, who bolted for the Bears' rebuilding job after going 49-22 with four AFC West titles and a Super Bowl appearance in his four seasons in Denver.

Kubiak was 24-11 when he stepped down Jan. 2, saying the 100-hour work weeks were no longer a good fit.

"This is a great place to work, but the expectations are high," Elway said last week, noting that standard was set decades ago by owner Pat Bowlen. "Everybody that comes here, whether it's a coach or a player, understands that the standard is to be able to compete for world championships. Does it add a little bit more? Sure it does. I think if you're good at what you do, I think you want that challenge."

When Elway tweeted Tuesday afternoon that his meeting with Joseph went well, it appeared Joseph might leave town without a contract offer. Yet, Elway didn't let him get away 24 months after Joseph was Elway's second choice.

Joseph inherits an elite defense that features All-Pros Von Miller, Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr., and he'll need an experienced hand coordinating the offense, which sputtered for two seasons under coordinator Rick Dennison.

Joseph steps right into the middle of a QB competition between Trevor Siemian, who was pin-balled behind a leaky O-line, and first-rounder Paxton Lynch, who looked lost in his two starts.

Denver's defense ranked fourth in the NFL in 2016, its offense 27th.

That divide led to fissures in the locker room with members of the team's stellar secondary jawing with the offensive linemen for failing to protect the young OBs or open holes for a backfield that sorely missed C.J. Anderson after he went on IR in October with a knee injury.

Harris told The Associated Press he spent the day talking to friends around the league who have played for Joseph such as Texans cornerback A.J. Bouye and former teammate Antonio Smith, "and they said he's a great coach and will be a great leader for us in Denver. And that's what you need, first and foremost in a head coach, a guy that can take command of the room and get everyone to follow him."

Bills hire Panthers defensive coordinator McDermott as coach

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—The Buffalo Bills are putting their faith in Sean McDermott to fix their under-performing defense and restore relevance to a franchise that hasn't reached the playoffs since the Music City Miracle loss in January 2000.

The Bills hired the Carolina defensive coordinator as head coach Wednesday. The deal was reached shortly after McDermott conducted his second interview with the team in eight days. The 42-year-old has no head-coaching experience and spent the past six seasons overseeing the Panthers' defense.

McDermott replaces Rex Ryan, who was fired two weeks ago for failing to deliver on his bold promises to build the Bills into a bully.

McDermott is the team's ninth head coach since the 1999 season, when Buffalo last made the playoffs under Wade Phillips. That season, the Bills finished with a 22-16 loss in an AFC wild-card playFrank Wycheck's lateral to Kevin Dyson set up a 75-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the final seconds.

The Bills have managed just two winning records since—9-7 in both 2004 and 2014—and extended the NFL's longest active playoff drought to 17 years following a 7-9 finish this season.

"I am very appreciative of the opportunity to become the Buffalo Bills new coach and join the rich tradition of Bills football," McDermott said in a statement released by the team.

He will be formally introduced during a news conference Friday.

McDermott has 18 seasons of NFL experience, spending his first 12 years with the Philadelphia Eagles. He started as a scouting coordinator for two years, then mentored under late defensive coordinator Jim Johnson. He eventually succeeded Johnson in 2009.

In college, McDermott played safety at William and

off game at Tennessee, where Mary, where he teamed with current Steelers coach Mike Tomlin for two seasons.

> McDermott was also a two-time national high school wrestling champion while growing up in southeastern Pennsylvania, something that made a big impression on Bills owner Terry Pegula.

"2x natl prep champ wrestler says it all," Pegula wrote in a text to The Associated Press. "I know that isn't a quality for NFL HC, but of character & hardwork focus that says it all."

Pegula also noted the influence former Eagles coach Andy Reid had in helping mold McDermott as a coach, and called it: "Good stuff."

In a statement released by the team, Pegula added: "We believe we have hired a smart, determined and hard-working head coach who has been training for many years to achieve this goal."

McDermott takes over a team that featured the NFL's top running attack but an underperforming defense in two

seasons under Ryan.

The defense finished 19th in yards allowed two years straight, and was particularly porous against the run. Buffalo allowed 200-plus yards rushing to opposing running backs three times this season, including twice against Miami's Jay Ajayi.

Pegula grew so dissatisfied with the defensive meltdowns, he fired Ryan in the week leading up to Buffalo's final game. Ryan was replaced by offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn, who served as interim coach in a season-ending loss to the New York Jets.

Lynn, Cardinals offensive coordinator Harold Goodwin and Seahawks defensive coordinator Kris Richard also interviewed for the job.

Lynn was considered an initial front-runner to take over on a permanent basis, before the Bills began leaning toward McDermott, who was the first candidate the team interviewed.

Under McDermott, the Panthers enjoyed four straight

seasons of being ranked in the NFL's top 10 in fewest yards allowed before taking a step back this season.

Carolina finished 21st in yards allowed, giving up 500-plus yards three times. The pass defense particularly suffered a drop-off following the loss of star defensive back Josh Norman, who signed with Washington in free agency. Carolina's defense was also weakened once star linebacker Luke Kuechly missed the final six games with a concussion.

The Panthers still finished sixth against the run and ranked second with 47 sacks.

In 2015, McDermott oversaw a unit that forced an NFL-leading 39 takeaways and ranked second in yards allowed. The Panthers team went 15-1 and lost to Denver in the Super Bowl.

McDermott's hiring means Buffalo will revert to a fourlineman, three-linebacker defensive system after playing under Ryan's 3-4 scheme.

McDermott inherits

unit that is not bereft of young talent.

In April, Buffalo used its top three draft picks on defensive players, including the first two on linebackers Shaq Lawson and Reggie Ragland. Lawson missed the first six weeks of the season recovering from shoulder surgery, while Ragland sustained a season-ending knee injury during training camp.

It's uncertain whom Mc-Dermott will hire to oversee Buffalo's offense.

Another major question is McDermott's plans for quarterback Tyrod Taylor.

The Bills restructured the quarterback's contract in August, giving him a fiveyear extension while retaining the right to opt out of the deal by March.

The Bills also face a potentially significant roster overhaul with 24 players eligible to become free agents this offseason. The group includes cornerback Stephon Gilmore, linebackers Lorenzo Alexander and Zach Brown, and receiver Robert Woods.

McConnell's jumper at buzzer sends 76ers past Knicks, 98-97



the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Joel Embiid had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Ersan Ilyasova added 16 points to help the Sixers rally from a 17-point deficit.

Derrick Rose returned from a one-game hiatus and scored 25 points for the Knicks. Carmelo Anthony had 28.

Rose showed why New York needs him on the court, two days after an unexcused absence. He missed Monday night's loss to New Orleans when he traveled home to Chicago without informing the team first.

Rose stepped back for a mid-range jumper with 1:24 left that pushed New York's lead to 95-89, and he cut through the lane for an upand-under bucket on Embiid that kept the lead at three.

Embiid banked in a 3-pointer and had fans chanting "Trust the Process!" He followed with a layup to make it a one-point game and McConnell, who scored eight points, shot one over Anthony at the horn to send the crowd into a frenzy.

Rose was absent Monday for what he described as family reasons. He said his trip to Chicago had nothing to do with basketball and he apologized to his teammates and Knicks management, telling them it won't happen again.

"I only missed one game," Rose said Wednesday. "If I felt like I needed more time, I would have talked to the front office. But I feel like everything is all right."

Rose insisted he simply left for the family matter and not because of any rift with the Knicks.

"The relationship I'm building with Phil (Jackson) and Steve (Mills), I wouldn't mind asking (for more time off) if I needed it," Rose said. "I feel fine. What happened a couple of days ago, that's in the past."

Embiid is a huge part of Philly's future and a big reason the Sixers have won four

He missed the final minutes of the first half with a sprained left ankle. Embiid, who missed two seasons recovering from injuries, returned in front of fans who were sipping his favorite Shirley Temple drink. Embiid has long been a fan of the sweet concoction of lemon-lime soda, grenadine and a maraschino cherry, and the Sixers sold the drink as part of a promotional push to get him an All-Star spot.



Embiid got hooked on the drink during his lone season at Kansas.

"One night, I went out with my teammates. I don't drink alcohol so I wasn't drinking," he said. "This girl walked up to me, she was talking to me, she was like, 'Why aren't you drinking?' I was like, 'I just don't drink, alcohol is nasty.' She was like, 'I might have something for you.' She went and got a Shirley Temple. Then I was like, 'Oh, OK.' Then I fell in love with it and since then, I've been drinking it."

Thunder 103, **Grizzlies 95**

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook posted his 18th triple-double of the season, and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 103-95 on Wednesday night.

Westbrook finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the 55th triple-double of his career. He already has matched his triple-double total

from last season less than halfway through this one, and last season's total was the most for an NBA player since Magic Johnson had 18 during the 1981-82 season.

Enes Kanter scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 for the Thunder, who won their third straight and avenged their worst loss of the season. Oklahoma City lost 114-80 in Memphis on Dec. 29, a game Westbrook was ejected from.

Mike Conley scored 22 points for the Grizzlies.

Timberwolves 119, Rockets 105

In Minneapolis, Andrew Wiggins scored 28 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and Shabazz Muhammad scored 20 to help Minnesota beat Houston.

James Harden had 33 points and 12 assists for the Rockets, who had their nine-game winning streak snapped.

Ricky Rubio tied his own franchise record with 17 assists to go with 10 points for the Timberwolves, who used a

we also followed and cheered

for New Orleans when Gus-

tavo was there", said Llamas,

who played for the Suns for

two seasons. "We want to

have not only one but many

Mexicans in the NBA, and

we hope to achieve it soon".

NBA preseason and regular-

season games (22) than any

country outside the U.S. or

Canada. The Suns will play

the Mavericks on Thursday

and then against San Anto-

nio on Saturday, marking

the first time that the country

has hosted two regular-sea-

son games in the same year.

Overall, it will be the fourth

regular season game played

south of the border.

Mexico has hosted more

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, right, and Philadelphia 76ers' T.J. McConnell celebrate after McDonnell's gamewinning basket during an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia

17-4 run to build an 89-77 lead after three quarters.

Celtics 117, Wizards 108

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 20 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter and Boston pulled away late to beat Washington.

Al Horford added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who won for the fifth time in six games and ended Washington's three-game winning streak. Jae Crowder scored 20 and Terry Rozier had 11.

Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 35 points. Otto Porter Jr. scored 20 and Markieff Morris finished with 14.

Boston held John Wall to a season-low nine points. The star guard did have 10 assists for the Wizards, who fell to 19-19 a day after moving above .500 for the first time since November 2015.

Trail Blazers 102, **Cavaliers 86**

In Portland, Ore., CJ McCollum had 27 points and Portland shook off fatigue caused by weather-related travel delays to beat defending NBA champion Cleveland.

Allen Crabbe added 24 points off the bench for the Trail Blazers, who have won four straight home games against the Cavaliers. Portland led by as many as 24.

LeBron James had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland

McCollum scored 21 points in the second half. He has had seven straight games with 25

A snowstorm that dumped as much as 14 inches on parts of Portland caused travel problems for both teams late Tuesday.

Clippers 105, Magic 96

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick had 22 points and Los Angeles hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to hold off Orlando, improving to 5-0 in the new year.

Marreese Speights scored 10 of his 13 in the fourth, including three 3-pointers, on a night when the Clippers committed 21 turnovers. DeAndre Jordan grabbed 20 rebounds (to go with 10 points) for his NBA-leading sixth game with 20 or more.

Aaron Gordon had 28 points, 18 in the first half, to lead Orlando, which has lost four in a row and six of seven. Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Mexican roots run deep with the Phoenix Suns

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Devin Booker is very proud of his Mexican heritage. But eating grasshopper tacos, a local delicacy? That's where the Phoenix Suns star apparently draws the line.

"No, I did not try them, but I guess I will have to before I leave", Booker said Wednesday after practice at Arena Ciudad de Mexico.

Mexican roots run deep in the Suns, whose coach Earl Watson and Booker both Mexican-American mothers, making the games Thursday night against the Dallas Mavericks and Saturday against the San Antonio Spurs memorable occasions for both of them.

The 20-year-old Booker is the son of former NBA player Melvin Booker and Veronica Gutierrez, a Mexican-American who raised him while his father played overseas for a decade, including stops in Italy and Russia.

"I owe her everything, just growing up she raised me and my brother and sister and she never frown, she was always

positive", said Booker, who's averaging 19.2 points in his second season in the NBA. "She really cared for me, and never really cared about basketball, as long as I was happy. Having the support from your mother like that it's unbelievable.

Watson, a former player in his first full season as an NBA head coach, also has an African-American father and a Mexican-American mother. His mother, Estrella, will attend the game Thursday in her first trip to the nation's capital.

"For me personally it's big, my grandparents are from Guadalajara, and for my mom it's her first time in Mexico City and she'll be here cheering me on. Everything my grandparents did as far as coming to the United States, they came illegally, but eventually gained citizenship and for them to see me take these strides I think it's big for my family", said Watson to the AP after Wednesday's practice.

Because of his heritage,

when he was playing, Watson was considered to be part of the Mexican national team although it never happened. He was also mentioned as a candidate to coach them when he retired. He regrets that those thinks never materialized, but hopes to give something back to Mexico.

ico, I always try to represent Mexico and Mexican-Americans, I'm very outspoken about my heritage, my mom raised me Mexican-American. If I can give inspiration and come back to Mexico and give something back to the kids I'm always excited to do it", added Watson.

this season.

Mexican to play in the league. Horacio Llamas was

the first in 1996-97, followed by Eduardo Najera and Gustavo Ayon. 'It's sad because we want to root for the Mexicans, we rooted for the Bucks when Jorge (Gutierrez) was there,

"I want to be a part of Mex-

Mexico needs all the basketball inspiration it can get right now. For the first time since the 1999-00 season, there's no Mexican players in the league. Jorge Gutierrez was the last one and he was cut by the Brooklyn Nets right before the start of

Japan and the United Kingdom are the only other Gutierrez was the fourth countries to host two regular-season games in the same season.

ESPN: Chargers plan to announce move to LA



(AP) — Thedeadline for the San Diego Chargers to exercise

their option to relocate to Los Angeles has been extended for two days, although a media report surfaced Wednesday night that the team plans to move.

The Chargers have called a staff meeting for 8 a.m. PST Thursday, a team employee said Wednesday night. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. The employee said the topic of the meeting hadn't been divulged.

chairman Team Dean Spanos didn't immediately return a message left at his home.

Citing league sources, ESPN.com reported Wednesday night that the Chargers plan to announce as early as Thursday that they are moving to Los Angeles. According to the report, the Chargers have notified NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, and the owners of other teams, of their intent to move to Los Angeles for the 2017 season.

ESPN.com reported that nothing was final.

While he said it would

be a challenge to win at Le

Golf National outside Paris,

where the French Open has

been since 2002, he said it's a

chance to end a losing streak

that has been around as long as

"Our team hasn't won in 25

years - I've heard that a lot to-

day," Furyk said. But I view

it as an opportunity. It's ex-

citing, and it's a new day and

age for the U.S. Ryder Cup

team. We have some momen-

Furyk is 46 and still going

strong on the PGA Tour. He

is No. 37 in the world rank-

ing and had a chance to make

his 10th straight team last year

except that he missed the first

four months of the year re-

covering from wrist surgery.

He set a PGA Tour record in

August with a 58 in the final

round of the Travelers Cham-

pionship. Furyk had shot 59

at the BMW Championship

he's been on tour.

tum right now."

The original deadline was Jan. 15. Because that is a Sunday and Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday, the NFL moved back the deadline until Tuesday. The league initiated the move.

San Diego would become a tenant in the stadium being built in Inglewood for the Rams if the Chargers exercise that option. If not, the Oakland Raiders would have the option to join the Rams in the LA area, though Raiders owner Mark Davis has indicated his intention to seek a move to Las Vegas.

The Chargers would have to find a temporary home in L.A., either the Coliseum or the 27,000-seat StubHub! Center in Carson

The NFL's stadium and finance committees met Wednesday for about 3 1/2 hours to discuss relocation of the Chargers and Raiders. The fact-finding meetings mostly centered on the Raiders' plan for a potential move to Nevada. No filings for relocation were made; Oakland has until Feb. 15.

"There was little to no discussion on the topic of the Chargers," league executive Eric Grubman said

And no decisions were planned nor made at the meeting, in which all members of the two committees took part, some by teleconference. Those owners are finance chairman Bob McNair

particles bound with latex or

polyurethane (wet pour). The

of Houston, along with Atlanta's Arthur Blank, Tampa Bay's Joel Glazer, Kansas City's Clark Hunt, Indianapolis' Jim Irsay, Jacksonville's Shahid Khan, New England's Robert Kraft, Philadelphia's Jeffrey Lurie and Miami's Steve Ross.

Participating from the stadium committee were chairman Art Rooney of Pittsburgh, Arizona's Michael Bidwill, the Jets' Woody Johnson, Dallas' Stephen Jones, Chicago's George H. McCaskey and San Francisco's Jed York.

The owners did talk about possible relocation though Rooney said no specific numbers were discussed. PJT Partners, which analyzed what the relocation fee for the Rams' move from St. Louis last year should be, has been hired by the league to do the same job again. The Rams paid \$550 million to move to LA.

Much of the meeting was taken up with the Raiders presenting financial updates. Rooney and Grubman said there was no discussion of Las Vegas casino owner Sheldon Adelson's potential role in the Raiders' relocation. Rooney noted NFL rules and policies that would prohibit a casino owner from having ownership of a franchise

"It would have to be in compliance with our rules," Rooney said. "The Raiders are looking at the potential of doing without Mr. Adelson if it comes down to that."

Furyk appointed next US Ryder Cup captain

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP GOLF WRITER

Jim Furyk was appointed Wednesday as the U.S. captain for the 2018 Ryder Cup in France, where his team will try to win on European soil for the first time in 25 years.

Furyk was a unanimous choice by the Ryder Cup committee last month.

The former U.S. Open champion, and the only player in history to twice post rounds in the 50s, brings more playing experience than any other U.S. captain. Furyk played on nine consecutive teams starting in 1997, and he was an assistant captain to Davis Love III last year at Hazeltine.

Love will be one of his assistants in France

"He's going to be a very tough act to follow." Furvk said from PGA of America headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. "He put a system in place. He put the players behind it. It won't make my task easier, but it

unbeaten Rollers 1 (4-0) and

670 Sonics (4-0). Johnny had 11

Troy Ngirarois also had 11

markers for the Ol'Aces 2,

making all of them in the final

half of the first frame to hand his

team a 35-22 lead at the break.

Earlier in the first half. Johnny

knocked in back-to-back tri-

ples and three more Ol'Aces 2

players made it to the board for

However, the Ol'Aces failed to

sustain its shooting in the second

half, while MHS behind E.J. Abe-

jo and Jediael Manalo rallied back

before falling short in the end.

the squad's good start.

points, while Santos tallied 10.

OL'ACES

From Page 32

makes it easier knowing there is a system in place. To have him by my side—his advice, his experience, two captaincies and one vice captaincy—is going to be priceless for me.'

The Americans reshaped their thinking after the 2014 loss at Gleneagles, where RYDER CUP Phil Mickelson publicly questioned Tom Watson's leadership and the lack of player involvement. That spawned a Ryder Cup Task Force that allowed for more input from the players, and now a Ryder Cup committee comprising three players (Mickelson, Love and Tiger Woods) and the top three PGA of America officials.

Part of that model was to allow for more consistency at each Ryder Cup, such as captains previously serving as assistants.

The committee met Dec. 6 and decided on Furyk, waiting until the start of the new year to announce him. PGA of America President Paul Levy said it took Furyk "one second" to accept the job.

Jordan Spieth and Brandt Snedeker were among players who thought it was the right choice and a logical

one. Spieth referred to Furyk as a role model, and smiled when he added that Furyk would "embrace the idea of having an away game."

The Americans haven't won on the road since 1993 at The Belfry, when Love was a Ryder Cup rookie, Woods was in high school and Spieth was 2 months old.

"He's got a lot of scar tissue in the Ryder Cup," Spieth said, referring to five Ryder Cup losses that Furyk endured in front of European fans. "I think it will be more fulfilling being there, having a chance to win over there. He can take the experience of all those Ryder Cups and throw that down the drain with a win."

Furyk agreed.

cord, tying the 670 Thunder and Gen Cup for the fourth to sixth places in the team standings, ahead of Ol'Aces 1 (0-2)

MHS dropped to a 1-2 re-

and Rollers 2 (0-3). Meanwhile, in the women's division game, Sun Palace also earned its second victory after topping Shirley's Coffee

Shop, 27-19.

Dianne Pablo made up for her 5-point output in their 11-32 loss to IT&E last Monday after firing 17 against Shirley's. Mikky Vargas and Hannah Santos were the other scorers for Sun Palace, recording 8 and 2, respectively.

Kelsey Lizama had 8 for Shirley's, which remains win-

less in four games.

U16 Division Ol'Aces 2 51— Ngirarois 11,

Johnny 11, C. Santos 10, Quitugua 6, Ichihara 4, Ferrari 2, Richson 2, Pangelinan 2, P. Santos 1.

MHS 48 — Abejo 15, Manalo 10, Zhang 6, Tenorio 4, Prado 3, Angelo 3, Sagum 3, Reyes 2, Agustin 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-22, 51-48.

Women's Division

Sun Palace 27 — Pablo 7, Vargas 8, Santos 2.

Shirley's 19 — Lizama 8, R. Jones 4, E. Jones 4, J. Jones 3.

Scoring by halves: 12-9,

From Page 32 the project. Delays would cost the contractor a fine of \$100

three years earlier.

EXPERT

Saipan Tribune has yet to secure a copy of layout of the new track, but according to a website of an Australian-based company specializing in track

resurfacing, the usual track has three layers and project completion depends on the weather condition and availability of materials

The first layer is the base that is made of asphalt, while the second is the seal layer (pouring of specialized glue and grinding/drying the surface). The third is the surface layer, which have rubber

latex or polyurethane surface is typically installed to a depth of 3/8" to 1/2" on top of an asphalt or concrete base. After each layer, cleaning is required to ensure no other unwanted materials are left that could affect the layering of the surface.

Once the resurfacing work is done, NMSA, through Northern Mariana Athletics, has to get certification from International Association of Athletics Federations to make sure the new track meets international standards. The track has to regain its Level II certification from IAAF to be able to host regional and international tournaments, such as the Pacific Mini Games in 2021.

(200), and Rintaro MIyawaki

In the boys U16, Michael Ren's 1,000 gave him the No. 1 spot, ahead of Ken Song (750), Vincent Tudela (600), Sean Lee (500), Allan Lee (400), Woo (300), Andy Cho (250), and Jeffrey Seo (200). Robbier Schorr, the CNMI's No. 1 player in the U14 age group and a favorite in the U16 division, missed the Tan-Holdings Classic as he had a tournament in Australia.

Schorr and all the CNMI's

junior players will have another chance to gain ranking points next month as NMITA holds the 2017 Coconut Tennis Classic. Then in March, more ranking points will be at stake in the PIC Tennis Championships, while NMITA's last ranking event will be the CNMI Junior Championships in April

Rankings are one of NMI-TA's basis in selecting members of the CNMI Junior National Team that competes in off-island tournaments every year.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES **NBA STANDINGS EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division** Toronto 13 Boston New York Boston 24 New York 17 Philadelphia 11 15 22 25 29 Brooklyn Southeast Division 16 19 19 Charlotte 19 Washington 24 29 Orlando

Central Division

.615 .436 .306

.513 2½ .500 3

.400

Cleveland 18 .526 8 Indiana 18 20 22 19 19 Milwaukee Chicago

WESTERN CONFERENCE

30	8	.789	_
31	10	.756	1/2
24	17	.585	$7\frac{1}{2}$
15	24	.385	151/2
11	27	.289	19
	31 24 15	31 10 24 17 15 24	31 10 .756 24 17 .585 15 24 .385

Northwest Division

Itah	24	16	.600	_
klahoma City	24	16	.600	_
ortland	18	23	.439	61/2
enver	14	23	.378	81/2
linnesota	13	26	.333	101/2

acilic bi	11310	••		
olden State	33	6	.846	_
A. Clippers	27	14	.659	7
acramento	16	22	.421	161/2
A. Lakers	15	27	.357	191/2
hoenix	12	26	.316	201/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Page 32

singles event in the TanHoldings tournament in the said age group.

For the U10 division, Jae Yun Jung and Kim have 1.000 rankings points each to enjoy the top spot. Lahunn Lam (750) is at second place in the boys division and is followed by Danny Jeong (600), Nason Wessel (500), and Sam Cope (400). Seo Hee Lee is ranked second in the girls with her

750, while Chae Eun Kim and Hoo Wang are in third and fourth with 600 and 500 points, respectively.

In the girls U18, the Top 3 is made up of Isabel Heras (1,000), Tania Tan (750), and Malika Miyawaki (600). Miyawaki also played in the girls U16 and her 250 in the doubles tied Conatsu Kaga in first place in the age group. Tan and Coume Kaga have 200 apiece for their runner-up finish in the girls U16 doubles.

Conatsu is on top, too of

the girls U14 rankings after earning 1,000 points for beating her sister Conatsu (750). Maria Gregoire (600) and Riko Ojima (500) rounded out the division.

In the boys U14, Sean Lee leads seven others after collecting 1,000 ranking points. Ji Min Woo is in second place with his 750, while Seung Jin Paik is ranked third after recording 600. Others on the leaderboard are Sam Ryu (500), Chris Kim (400), Daniel Heo (300), Jeong Won Lee

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 **31**

2016 PIC Southside Siheky Ride

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS











Pacific Trading Co.'s Charles Cepeda takes his time passing through Koblerville.



James Abuy leads two other bikers on their way out to a gravel road near the CPA Airport Field.



Pacific Islands Club's Raymond Tolentino slows down to pose for a photo.



Paul Plunkett and Noe Valdisimo keep each other company on their way to the Airport Road.



Saipan Tribune SDOITS



McConnell's jumper at buzzer sends 76ers past Knicks, 98-97

PAGE 29

32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



and Andy Kim (400) in the rankings, which also includes nine other players.

In the girls U12, Anika Camacho is

ahead of J.C. Ferrer (750) and Helen Kim (600) after tallying 1,000 points for ruling the

See 9 on Page 30

tage in the second half before getting timely baskets from Jay Junior Johnny, Coby Santos, and Traven Quitugua to foil MHS' comeback bid. Johnny hit a triple in the closing minutes of the match, Santos had two of the Ol'Aces' last three field goals, and Quitugua made the other basket.

Both Santos and Johnny finished in double figures for the Ol'Aces, which now has a 2-2 record for second place in the team standings behind the

See OL'ACES on Page 30



Expert to monitor track resurfacing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An expert in building track and field facilities will visit Saipan to check the ongoing resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Michael White, president of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which coordinates the resurfacing project at the Oleai track with contractor Tang's Corp., said during the NMASA meeting last week that an expert from Australia will be on island next month for a site inspection. White said he was informed by NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes that the expert will oversee the asphalt milling of the track.

Employees of Tang's Corp. have

been clearing the oval since late November. This week, the base surface has been grated and the process will continue in the coming weeks as the contractor awaits materials for the project.

NMSA staff Elias Rangamar, who is in charge of the operations at the sports complex since NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi is off-island and won't be back until Saturday, said the resurfacing project has a long ways to go, especially since it has been raining the past several days.

"They have to clear everything and make sure the surface is really flat before going through the process of resurfacing the track," Rangamar said.

Rangamar has not seen the specifics

of the resurfacing project, but he said that placing and drying the rubberized surface could take a week or two, depending on the weather.

'Then the marking will take longer-about a month—because it has to be precise. I heard that the expert on track resurfacing will come here from time to time to make sure we have the right measurement and right materials for the track. I just hope the weather would cooperate so the work will be done in time," Rangamar said.

Tang's Corp. has 150 days since the issuance of notice to proceed (Nov. 15) was released to complete

See EXPERT on Page 30



ROSELYN B MONROYO

Tang's Corp. workers do a clearing job at the track and field facility of the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday